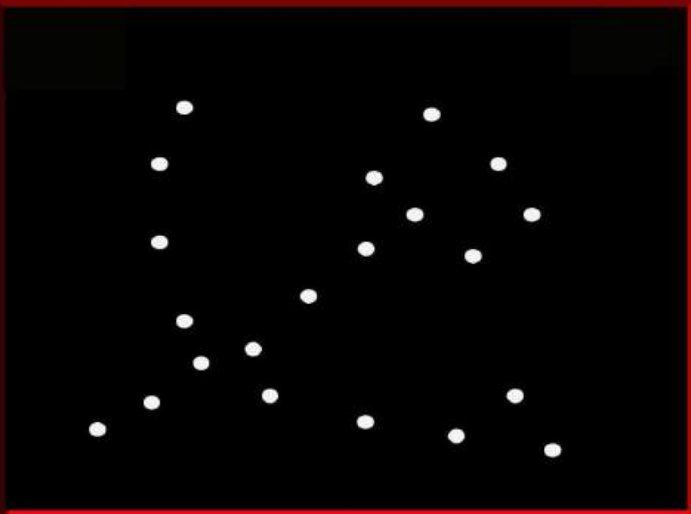

Quotations of the Modern Marxist Masses

Preface

Inspired by *Quotations of Chairman Mao Zedong,* this text seeks to bridge theory and practice with insights from co-authors ranging from party organizers to journalists, student activists, Palestinian diaspora, philosophy professors, and former Soviet citizens. While correct ideas are principally attained through years of exposure to material production and class struggle, the knowledge of your contemporaries can prove a useful supplement. Moreover, while there is one objective reality, nineteen people from nine countries collectively have more knowledge of it than any individual could in a lifetime.

In the present moment, given the time and energy pressures of capitalist life, real political activism among the masses is unfortunately infrequent in the great majority of countries. Yet class consciousness should not be exclusive to those who have time for academic texts or are close to existing political organizations.

To improve accessibility to all readers, this book has a built-in organizational structure to navigate quotes. Every quote has both a two-digit code for reference purposes and a geometrical marking to signify complexity. The quotes you find marked by ● will be elementary, ▼denoting intermediate level, and ⬟ the most sophisticated. Lastly, especially critical quotes are marked with ✪, and quotes with additional links for verification in the appendix are marked with 🛈.

Yet as Marx taught us two centuries ago, the ultimate goal of interpreting the world is to change it. Above all, this book should equip you with the necessary knowledge for empowering the working class in any way you can.

Maoism For The Masses, July 2025

Sections

List of Contributors *3*
Glossary 5
1—The State of the World 15
2—Historical Materialism 26
3—Marxism and Its Evolution 31
4—Classes and Class Struggle 44
5—Socialism and Communism 50
6—Socialism in History 57
7—Organization and Praxis 67
8—Revisionism 79
9—Imperialism and Neocolonialism 90
10—The State and Fascism 101
11—Communist Leaders and Thinkers 107
12—Dialectical Materialism 112
13—Education and Study 118
14—Technology 122
15—Palestine and National Liberation 127
16—Discipline 134
17—Youth 137
18—Culture, Women, and Queer Comrades 140
19—Conclusion 146
Sources 153

List Of Contributors

African Stalin: Kenyan Communist Activist

Comrade Justine: Filipino Organizer and Maoism For The Masses Contributor

Danny Wong: Hong Kong-Based Journalist

Gutsenberg: Maoism For The Masses Contributor

F.M.M.: U.S. Worker and Maoism For The Masses Editor

Husseini: Palestinian Diaspora and Maoism For The Masses Contributor

J.A. Sterling: Former Organizer and Maoism For The Masses Contributor

Jim Farmelant: Maoism For The Masses Contributor, Engineer, and Independent Philosopher

Justin Schwartz: Former Attorney and Philosophy Professor, PhD University of Michigan ‘89, JD Ohio State ‘98

M.: Maoism For The Masses Contributor

Manitou: Vietnamese Communist Activist

Mena Redd: U.S. Student Activist and Maoism For The Masses Contributor

Omar El-Sayed: Egyptian Student and Maoism For The Masses Editor

Paul Kingsley: U.S. Student and Maoism For The Masses Editor

Sahij Singh Aulakh: Punjabi Technician and Maoism For The Masses Editor

Rachid Masimov: Uzbek Former Soviet Citizen and Amateur Historian, Maoism For The Masses Contributor

Robby LaBurne: U.S.-Based Maoism For The Masses Executive Editor

Svetlana Cherkasova: Russian Former Soviet Citizen and Amateur Historian

Zahra: Somali Diaspora Communist Activist

To the masses, who always have and always will, supremely shape history.

Glossary

A list of terms for better understanding

Alienation:
The disconnect from labor, products, or humanity caused by production relations.

Antagonism (Dialectics):
The irreconcilability of two aspects of a particular contradiction. Not present in every contradiction. An example of an antagonistic contradiction is that between the player and the dealer in blackjack, where a gain for one is a loss for the other. By contrast, an example of a non-antagonistic contradiction is that between positive and negative charges in a computer, which work in tandem to process information.

Base:
The productive forces and relations of production, which determine the concurring social system and shape non-economic spheres of society (superstructure).

Base Area:
A region liberated by the people's army and used as a base to plan further actions in the middle of a revolutionary war. The formation of base areas is critical to the Marxist-Leninist-Maoist theory of Protracted People's War.

Bureaucrat-Capitalism:
A system in many semi-colonial countries in which domestic capitalists and government officials collaborate with foreign finance capital to exploit the nation's resources and labor.

Capital Cycle (*MCPC'M'*):
The cycle of capitalist production from money, to labor and commodities, to industrial production, to finished products, and finally to more money. The value of the finished commodities (C') increases due to the surplus value extracted from labor (variable capital) during the production process.

Capitalism:
An economic system defined by privately owned production for the primary purpose of exchange. It can exist under a market, mixed, or command economy, as well as various political systems. Divides society into two classes, the proletariat (workers) and the bourgeoisie (owners).

Class:
A group of people defined by a common relationship to the means of production. Commonly referenced classes include the bourgeoisie, proletariat, peasantry, landlord, and lumpenproletariat.

Commercial Capital:
Capitalist firms that purchase goods from industrial capitalists for under their true production price, and sell them at their production price, the difference of which, accounting for commercial labor costs, is called commercial profit.

Communism (Higher-stage communism):
An advanced society without class, commodity exchange (money), a state, or private ownership of the means of production. Also known as the ideology aiming to achieve such a society.

Commodity:
A product (good, service, land, or labor-power) with a use-value and an exchange-value, produced for sale rather than personal use. Commodity production occurs in all forms of class society except higher-stage communism, yet it is only the principal form of production under capitalism.

Contradiction:
A relationship consisting of the struggle and unity of opposites. Motivator of all change. Examples of contradictions in physical sciences include attraction and repulsion, heat and cold, or photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Separate from a "contradiction" in the mainstream sense, which refers to the occurrence of one part of an argument refuting another.

Criticism (Party):
Public, grounded criticism of the errors of another party member. Intended to be paired with unity, unless the issue is so great that the subject of criticism is working in favor of an opposing class.

Cultural Revolution:
A continuation of the proletarian revolution under socialism launched to suppress attempts at capitalist restoration. Carried out against backward societal customs and institutions, as well as corrupt, reactionary, or incompetent officials within the government or party, who represent the capitalist line.

Dialectics:
The philosophical world outlook asserting interconnectedness, continuous change, and the primacy of contradictions as the bearers of development. Expounded by Hegel in the 18th century, yet has foundations dating back to Heraclitus of Ancient Greece.

Dogmatism:
The tendency to apply theories, especially from antiquated or foreign texts, without regard for the particularities of the situation. An example of dogmatism would be using the slogan "workers of the world unite" to reject advocacy for national liberation, even though national liberation is an essential element of the global class struggle today.

Economism:
An opportunist current, criticized by Lenin in the early 20th century, which asserts that the workers should only engage in economic struggle, while foregoing the political struggle.

Exchange-Value:
The amount, usually standardized by the market, of a given commodity that another commodity can be exchanged for. Money is a societally agreed-upon, abstract representation of exchange value.

Feudalism:
A predominantly agrarian class system characterized by the exploitative relationship between lord and serf, and in which production is privately owned and conducted for the primary purpose of personal consumption.

Fascism:
One of the two state systems under which capitalism operates. Features intense collaboration between the state and industry, privatization of public resources, suppression of labor and political dissidents, and disregard for both liberal and socialist freedoms.

Intelligentsia:
The class of intellectuals who labor in educating advanced workers and contributing to various spheres of scientific knowledge. It is divided between revolutionary and reactionary intellectuals

Investigation (Party):
A process in which party members gain knowledge of the class dynamics of an area through first-hand exposure.

Imperialism:
The final, monopoly phase of capitalism characterized by 1) the concentration of capital into a small number of monopoly firms 2) the merging of industrial and bank capital to form "finance capital" 3) the export of capital, rather than commodities to peripheral countries 4) the emergence of trusts, cartels, and syndicates 5) the territorial division of the world into colonies and semi-colonies, on the one hand, and imperialist countries on the other.

Historical Determinism:
The belief that the course of history is set in stone, especially when applied to individual movements. Can be seen on both the left ("our revolution is inevitable this decade") and the right ("we have already reached the end of history").

Historical Materialism:
The Marxist conception of history, which asserts that the development of productive forces sets the stage for different class systems, which in turn shape non-productive institutions of society.

Labor:
The expenditure of time and energy by a human intended to create usefulness for oneself or others. Exists as a commodity in a capitalist economy.

Labor Aristocracy:
A class of workers in first-world countries who benefit from the redistribution of imperialist superprofits. While their exact number is disputed, they commonly hold highly paid jobs such as managers, professionals, or trade union leaders. Their political leanings, while not always in tandem with those of their domestic capitalist class, seek to protect the imperialist exploitation of the third world.

Labor Theory of Value:
A theory first proposed by Adam Smith and David Ricardo, and elaborated by Marx, asserting that the value of a commodity is derived from the average amount of labor a worker needs to invest to produce it.

Left-Opportunism/Ultra-Leftism:
An erroneous tendency making too many demands of the party, such as to wage war on capitalist countries, avoid all legal forms of activism, or condemn potential allied movements, ultimately harming the proletarian cause.

Liberalism (Ideological):
The ideological reflection of the capitalist mode of production emphasizing individual rights, freedom of expression, democratic elections, free markets, and private property. Formulated in Western Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries by Enlightenment thinkers, most prominently John Locke. Though it purports to advocate for democratic principles, they cannot be fully realized under capitalism.

Liberalism (Party):
An erroneous tendency in a communist party to ignore necessary struggle in pursuit of inappropriate peace and tranquility.

Liberal Democracy:
One of the two systems under which capitalism operates. Advocates of representative parliamentary systems, the right to free speech, and the protection of property rights.

Organization:
Action taken concerning the formation, operation, or management of a proletarian vanguard party or affiliated entities.

Overproduction:
The occurrence of production outpacing wages to a degree where many commodities cannot be sold, often halting the cycle of capital and causing an economic crisis.

Materialism (Philosophical):
The assertion of an objective, knowable reality outside of consciousness. In a materialist framework, ideas are reflections of material conditions.

Marxism:
The political ideology of the proletariat, first synthesized by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the 19th century, yet further expanded upon since then. It is divided into three sectors: political economy, dialectical materialism, and scientific socialism.

Marxism-Leninism:
The application of Marxism, formulated by Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin, in the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution. Significant additions include the theory of imperialism, the state, and the vanguard party.

Marxism-Leninism-Maoism:
The application of Marxism, formulated by Mao Zedong and Abimael Guzman, in the era of bureaucratic capitalism and neocolonialism. Significant additions include protracted people's war, new democracy, two-line struggle, the mass line, and cultural revolution.

Masses:
The unified classes of proletariat, peasantry, as well as progressive elements of the petty bourgeoisie, national bourgeoisie, and intelligentsia.

Mass Line:
A principle formulated by Mao Zedong, which asserts that party work is "from the masses, to the masses." It is implemented by collecting scattered ideas from the masses, systematizing them through study, and delivering refined ideas and policy solutions back to the masses promptly.

Metaphysics:
A philosophical outlook criticized by Marxists, asserting that the universe is the sum of independent, immutable, and self-defined entities.

Mode of production:
The historically determined economic system of a given society. The unity of productive forces and production relations. When the production relations no longer accord with the level of development of productive forces, the mode of production is replaced with a new one via a social revolution. The traditional modes of production throughout history are primitive communism, ancient slavery, feudalism, capitalism, and communism. Transitional phases from one mode to the next also exist.

Monopoly:
Domination of an industry in a nation or region by one or a few large enterprises. Monopoly rule is supplemented through trusts, cartels, and syndicates.

Nation:
A stable community of people defined by a shared history, culture, language, and territory.

National Liberation:
The emancipation of nations from foreign occupation and oppression.

Neoliberalism:
The latest phase of imperialism, beginning in the 1980s, marked by deregulation, globalization, and privatization.

Neocolonialism:
Also known as semi-colonialism, the economic subjugation of nominally independent countries by imperialism, usually reinforced through soft power. It is enforced by a variety of means, most commonly direct investment, debt contracts, structural adjustment plans, and currency hegemony.

New Democracy:
A transitory phase in a formerly semi-feudal, semi-colonial, or bureaucrat-capitalist nation in which the proletariat leads a front containing the peasantry, petty bourgeoisie, intelligentsia, and the anti-imperialist national bourgeoisie with the intent of developing the productive forces to a point where full socialism is feasible.

Oligarchy:
A group of wealthy individuals who exercise great influence over a nation's governmental policy. Often seen as a disparaging term towards said individuals.

Particularity:
The quality of a theory to be confined to a particular area or instance. In politics, this often refers to theories about the material conditions of one country that are not replicable in another.

(Protracted) People's War:
A military strategy formulated by Mao Zedong, which asserts the primacy of rural guerrilla warfare to build up base areas before encroaching on cities and engaging in urban insurrection. In the past, it has only worked in rural, semi-feudal nations, yet many believe it could also be applied to a first-world or urbanized setting.

Petty-Bourgeoisie:
A class in capitalist and proto-capitalist societies that owns the means of production, but employs few or no wage laborers.

Planned Economy:
An economy where production is determined by the workers' state, in consultation with necessary balances and economic laws.

Politics:
A concentrated form of class struggle over local, national, or international decision-making, governance, and resource allocation. Does not necessarily occur only through the ballot box or in the halls of government.

Political Economy:
The science of production relations, synthesizing economics with historical materialism.

Postmodernism:
A philosophical outlook formulated in the late 20th century, rejecting 'grand narratives' about nature and society. Often critical of the Marxist emphasis on class struggle as the primary contradiction.

(Social) Practice:
The source of all human knowledge, divided into three main categories of material production, class struggle, and scientific experiment.

Praxis:
The application of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist theory to practice.

Principal Contradiction:
A contradiction in a complex system which determines the overall direction of the system.

Productive Forces:
Labor, materials, tools, machines, and knowledge used to create use-values. Apart from labor, the productive forces are considered constant capital.

Production Relations:
Relations that classes have to the means of production, and to each other.

Profit:
The tangible quantity of value generated by a company. Derived from surplus value.

Propaganda:
Materials, writing, and art meant to promote a political movement. The term is often used incorrectly to refer to, in simple words, "anything that says something we disagree with."

Reactionary:
An adjective used to describe one who seeks to reverse social progress. Often used to describe the quality of being allied with the most exploitative class in a national or international context.

(Social) Revolution:
A radical political event that changes not only the government in power, but also the class hierarchy. Replaces one socio-economic system with another.

Revisionism (Opportunism):
The tendency to deviate from universal theories in a way that threatens or eliminates the working-class basis of a party or movement. Corruption of theory and praxis under bourgeois & petty-bourgeois ideological influence.

Scientific Socialism:
An ideology striving to build socialism out of the present class and political conditions. All Marxist socialism is scientific socialism.

Sectarianism:
Unneeded hostility over non-principal disagreements, alienating groups who should not be alienated.

Self-Criticism (Party):
Public acknowledgment of one's shortcomings in party work.

Settler-Colonialism:
A form of colonialism in which a large settler population, not merely professionals or administrators, encroaches on the land of a foreign nation.

Socialism (Lower-stage communism):
A system in which the means of production are owned in common by the workers. Its ultimate aim is the abolition of classes. Contains birthmarks of capitalism, to be removed by higher-stage communism. Production is centrally planned, and pay is allocated according to the quantity and quality of labor. Practiced most notably in the Soviet Union under Lenin and Stalin, and the People's Republic of China under Mao.

Socialist Democracy:
The only political system of socialism, in which the government is composed of a national congress, executive branch, and spearheaded by the communist party. Based on workers' councils (Soviets). In addition to guaranteeing political rights, socialist democracy necessitates economic democracy, with workers exercising democratic control over their workplaces and being afforded economic rights such as the right to employment and housing.

Social-Imperialism:
Economic or ideological imperialism masquerading as socialism.

Spontaneity:
A theory criticized by Lenin that the working class will seize the means of production at any given moment, without the leadership of a communist party.

State:
An apparatus of class rule. Takes different forms in different socioeconomic systems, including monarchy, liberal democracy, fascism, and socialist democracy.

Super-profit:
Profits extracted at a higher rate than normal due to unfair and unequal exchange between imperialist countries and semi-colonies. Based on super-exploitation.

Superstructure:
The set of social institutions outside of economic production set in place to reinforce a system of class relations. Elements of the superstructure include the state, ideology, religion, family, culture, education, art, and media.

Surplus-Value:
The part of the value of a commodity generated by the unpaid labor of workers, expropriated by the capitalist. Bourgeois profit is derived from surplus-value. Surplus-value is an abstract concept: while the total surplus-value collected in a society equals the total social profit, it rarely lines up in any individual instance of exploitation.

Theory of Productive Forces:
A revisionist theory asserting that the development of the productive forces alone is all that is needed for the establishment of socialism, neglecting the production relations. Used to claim that capitalism can grow over "peacefully" into socialism, or that socialism cannot be established because the "productive forces are too underdeveloped."

Vanguard Party:
The most advanced section of the working class responsible for leading a proletarian revolution. Successful vanguard parties have a central committee, a people's army, a newspaper, and connections to mass organizations through the united front.

Tailism:
The tendency of a party, mass organization, or revolutionary to blindly follow particular strata of the masses to win support.

Theory:
Ideas developed through the refinement of practice, in turn influencing future practice.

Three Worlds Theory:
An outline upheld by Mao Zedong dividing the world into three parts. The first world is composed of imperialist superpowers, the second of weaker imperialist countries, and the third of semi-colonies, direct colonies, and socialist states.

United Front:
The collective of mass organizations separate from but adherent to the communist party.

Universality:
The quality of a theory to be applicable in every situation. In the context of politics, "universal" most commonly refers to being true across all countries and locations. Oftentimes, universal theories are built off of previous localized ideas later proven to be universally applicable.

Use-Value:
The inherent, qualitative usefulness of a given commodity. It is necessary to produce use-values in order to have exchange-values.

Wage Labor:
The primary form of labor under capitalism. Wage labor consists of hired workers selling labor-power as a commodity to capitalists, in exchange for wages (labor-power's price).

Zionism:
The colonial ideology in support of the establishment of a Jewish state in the land of Palestine behind the ongoing displacement of Palestinians from their land.

1—The State of the World

Ideas are but reflections of material reality

● (1-1) ✪ i

"The reality for the downtrodden masses of the world is not one of abject poverty, but of potential prosperity siphoned by international networks of exploitation.

"Colonialism and slavery of the past have been rebranded as globalization and debt bondage, plundering $152 trillion from Africa, Asia, and Latin America since 1960. As a result of capitalist-caused climate change, the UN and World Bank forecast that by the end of this decade, 3 billion will have insecure housing, and 950 million will lack steady access to food. At the same time, millionaires' share of global wealth will climb from 43 to 66 percent, or $305 trillion.

"This is no accident of nature, nor is it a failure of the system to operate correctly. With every structural adjustment program, one-sided trade deal, and attempt at a neoliberal color revolution, the leading financial powers do not combat this plunder but intensify it. It was not Lenin but indeed Cecil Rhodes who stated that imperialism is a *necessity* in preserving the capitalist system. Mass exploitation is not a deterrent to mass wealth; it has been a precondition to it since 1492.

"What fuels the booming markets of Wall Street and Dubai comes at the expense of sweatshop labor, pollution, and warmongering from Palestine to Guatemala to Sudan. This diametrical opposition between imperialist hegemony and the toiling masses is the foundation for the only movement that can abolish the present state of things: communism."
—Maoism For The Masses Editorial Board, Original Quote

● (1-2) ✪

"We've had a century to test the effectiveness of spontaneity, the idea that people will rise unprovokedly once conditions get 'bad enough.' It's long past time to acknowledge that socialism will not be delivered on John

Frum's cargo ship. Rather, it must be organically constructed out of modern, capitalist reality by those living within it."
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

▼ (1-3)
"For every success story broadcast under liberalism as being 'motivational,' we also have millions of untold stories about bankrupt petty-bourgeois suffocated by competition in their first decade. Communism is the only system in which we can achieve collective success and fulfillment."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (1-4) ✪i
"History has taught us that no nation is too underdeveloped for communism. Before the revolution, China's state of human development would have ranked among the lowest today. Life expectancy was a meager 36 years, and it was commonplace for sewage workers to find dead bodies in the streets. A great section of the peasantry upheld the misogynistic practices of foot-binding and widow-burning. Thirty years later, life expectancy doubled, literacy quadrupled, education and healthcare were universalized, women were more liberated than in the West, and the working masses had full control over their society. If the power of Marxism could transform the world there and then, it is baseless to assume that it couldn't do so today."
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

● (1-5)
"Just last week in Ohio, a derailment released so much toxic gas that the town's ecosystem is under threat of collapse, but capitalist media refuses to cover this because the capitalist class is responsible for it; while rail unions warned of a potential rail car accident, capitalists refused to pay for better protections. If they won't even help a town against chemical pollution, they won't help us against the climate emergency."
—Paul Kingsley, *Communism Or Extinction*

● (1-6)
"It's not philanthropy, but merely social bribery when convenient. It's easy to donate $500 million to a charity helping exploited African countries if

your net worth is like that of Bill Gates. Give communities means of production, not a slice of bread, to eliminate international poverty."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (1-7)
"Bourgeois imperialists are much willing to fabricate lies about Gaza, Iraqi 'WMDs', or censor the fact that WikiLeaks exposed CIA ties to ISIS.

"Bourgeois-progressives of today accept the falsity of these lies and see them as truth, pointing to a decadent system needing reform. But why can't those same liberals question the established 'narrative' about the Holodomor or the Great Purges written in the *Black Book of Communism*? There must be an ulterior motive, considering how the communists are resisting the capitalists' molestation of the world."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (1-8)
"This is the first genocide in history to have been live-streamed 24/7, and the whole world is watching. And yet, you are not allowed to talk about it in public."
—Danny Wong: Hong Kong-based Journalist, *Quora*

▼ (1-9) ℹ
"It need not be emphasized more that the chaos ensuing in the Congo is not a consequence of internal ruptures but imperialist aggression. Though their enemies may want you to think that the Congolese are too 'savage' or 'barbaric' to want peace, as recently as 1960, the masses united under the Congolese National Movement and Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba to build an independent, democratic, and prosperous nation from within. A year later, the CIA assisted those who murdered him. They themselves admit to doing so in a report released decades later."
—Robby LaBurne, *Neocolonialism And The Congo Minerals Deal*

▼ (1-10)
"It is not stupidity or inherent susceptibility to 'propaganda' which hinders poor political character, but rather desperation. Through both word and action, the bourgeoisie has done a fantastic job of convincing the vast majority of the population that no systemic change is possible. That anything

beyond the current system isn't just 'totalitarian' but simply unattainable. Social critic Mark Fisher accurately summarized this in that 'it's easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism.'"
—Robby LaBurne, *The Problem is Not Stupidity, it is Desperation*

▼ (1-11) ℹ
"Over 30 years, American taxpayers have spent $2 trillion on the Iraq War alone. That's $8,000 per capita. What exactly did they accomplish?

"A burgeoning nation destroyed. Countless civilian lives were lost. Families torn apart, cultures vanished without a trace. Almost 10 million refugees are fending for their lives in distant lands. Thousands of American troops were dead, and thousands more utterly traumatised. A brutal (but competent) Sunni autocrat was replaced by an even more corrupt puppet parliamentary democracy. Bankers and defense contractors walking away with big fat bonuses, while the economy continues to go to hell."
—Danny Wong, *Quora*

▼ (1-12) ℹ
"The world's trend to suicide is not a call to accept subjugation but the dinging bell of liberation to free ourselves from our sugarcoated wage-slavery. If we, the populace, lack revolutionary optimism, then potentially hundreds of millions in future generations will perish from this existential blight."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (1-13) ℹ
"In some countries, such as Colombia, the imperialists directly hired mercenary death squads to massacre protesting farmers in banana fields, as well as blacks and natives. It's as if the Spanish never left in the first place."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *India and Imperialism, a Modern Perspective*

● (1-14)
"COVID-19 has shown that neoliberalism (and liberalism in general) has failed. Market economics has failed to provide enough equipment to doctors. Capitalism has forced people to be unemployed, starving, homeless, and ill. It has evicted many poor people while making rich people richer.

"Any argument of 'they did not work hard' that tries to justify evictions and unemployment is not acceptable for the masses since these workers have worked harder than ever. The labor aristocracy (white-collar white, native workers in business unions in America) is shrinking now, and the many other strata of labor are becoming poorer. The pandemic has shown that socialism works better than people think."
—Paul Kingsley, *Quora*

Image by Comrade Justine

▼ (1-15)

"Contrary to reactionary belief, people don't get 'more conservative' when older; instead, we unlock more pathways to attain class consciousness. However, the foggy mists of bourgeois myths can blind people's eyesight, leading them away from class consciousness and toward a reactionary cliff."

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (1-16)

"It is wrong to think that one can simply be free from society, especially capitalist society. Even if I were to put away all my personal belongings (created under capitalism), find some unclaimed forest and use it for my life, I would still breathe in air polluted by capitalist production."

—Paul Kingsley, *On iPhones*

⬟ (1-17) ℹ

"The G7 is similar to a lot of video game companies, in that they are great at generating hype, but terrible at keeping their promises. Just look at the promises they made in last year's joint communique.

1. Provide one billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2022 → far behind schedule.
2. Create the appropriate frameworks to strengthen collective defenses against threats to global health; shorten the cycle for the development of vaccines, treatments, and tests to 100 days → progress is nowhere in sight.
3. A timely, transparent, expert-led, science-based WHO-convened Phase 2 COVID-19 Origins study → not happening.
4. Commit to net zero no later than 2050 → Europe is burning coal once again.
5. Reinvigorate their economies by advancing recovery plans that build on the $12 trillion of support put in place during the pandemic → highest inflation in 40 years."

—Danny Wong, *Quora*

▼ (1-18)

"In India, there are no unions, none that actually care about the workers. What sucks is that there's barely any lunch or other breaks: 10 hours of blistering sun. Even with a college degree, you only make an extra dollar.

Rent is cheaper, luckily. I sleep 3-4 hours a day, mostly doing activities in the morning. I ride a motorcycle. I am luckily able to keep a high-calorie diet of mostly Maggi noodles, chickpeas, rice, canned veggies, and pizza occasionally."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *Serious Discussions Channel*

▼ (1-19) ✪
"We live under an economic system that actively discourages diligence as a virtue. The goal is to get rich overnight, so we never have to work a single day in our lives ever again. The truth is most of us will never be financially secure—let alone obscenely wealthy—by doing honest labour alone. We have to do meaningless, repetitive, and alienating work or else face starvation and homelessness. We will never know the good life."
—Danny Wong, *Quora*

● (1-20)
"Trump is also a serial imperialist. It's just that he's adopted a more isolationist stance on paper because I think a lot of the US voter base is coming to oppose massive spending on foreign projects that don't yield tangible results—shutting down USAID was a concession to that. He is actively trying to ramp up imperialist aggression in Iran and Palestine."
—Husseini, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (1-21)
"For reforms to work, they have to be compatible with the logic of capital accumulation. To the extent that they are not compatible, profits will fall and investment will decline, leading to economic slowdowns and political backlash against those reforms. To a large extent, the Cold War helped to keep such backlashes in check, since capitalist ruling classes in the U.S. and abroad realized that they needed to offer workers enough crumbs to keep them from looking towards non-capitalist alternatives. When the Cold War ended and the U.S.S.R. fell, ruling classes in the U.S. and other countries concluded they no longer needed to placate workers in this manner."
—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

⬟ (1-22)

"The financial crisis of 2007–2008 unveiled the operations and consequences of neoliberal deregulation with unusual clarity. The loss estimates range from $4 to $5 trillion to $15 trillion, dwarfing the approximately $100 billion losses due to the savings and loan (S&L) crisis of 1987. Deregulation, the core of neoliberalism, was central in the catastrophe. This was not mainly judicial, but legislative, notably Congress's 1999 repeal, at President Clinton's initiative, of the Glass–Steagall Act of 1933. That law barred commercial banks from issuing securities, which was thought to have helped trigger the Great Depression as banks made risky, and in many cases fraudulent, investments with other people's money."

—Justin Schwartz, *Neoliberalism And The Law, How Historical Materialism Can Illuminate Recent Government And Judicial Decisions*

▼ (1-23)

"As with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the media wants you to think the U.S. is actually winning in Yemen, by telling you how many rebels and buildings the U.S. bombed today. This is the same lesson the neoliberals have refused to learn since the Korean and Vietnam Wars—simply having better weapons and inflicting more casualties on the enemy doesn't guarantee victory (such antiquated 'shock-and-awe' tactics would be even more wasted on the Yemenis, who are no strangers to conflict or having their infrastructure destroyed). It's having boots on the ground, occupying territories, and reforming local society that truly matters."

—Danny Wong, *Quora*

▼ (1-24)

"The real reason why liberals hate Trump isn't because they disagree with what he stands for—it's that he embarrasses them by saying the quiet part out loud, echoing what they themselves truly stand for, in the rawest, ugliest, and most brutally honest way possible. Maybe not on identity politics issues like how many genders there are, but when it comes to the issues that matter—such as foreign policy—liberals and conservatives have consistently been equally supportive of aggression and imperialism. Remember how they both rooted for bombing Agrabah, an Arabic-sounding city that doesn't exist?"

—Danny Wong, *Quora*

⬟ (1-25)

"The hegemony of the right in the political discourse of the US and Great Britain seemed assured. Even when center-left governments ruled (the Clinton and Obama Administrations in the US and Tony Blair's New Labour in the UK), discussions of economic and social policy proceeded based on right-wing assumptions. And yet, one cannot help noticing that a certain rot seems to be setting in here. The right has, in power, proven no more able to resolve the contradictions of capitalism than were the liberals and social democrats."

—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

▼ (1-26)

"Workers aren't poor, but truly make up the wealthiest class, as the producers of our civilization in factories and farms. Yet they experience the social robbery of their surplus labor through merciless, destructive exploitation from above. The capitalist leeches 'earned' their net worth on the backs of that labor, as their employees become poorer due to inflation. How is communism the ideology of envy and theft when it promotes social justice through the socialization of the means of production?"

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (1-27)

"Trump is the logical conclusion, the culmination of years of capitalist ideology and economy, and the existence of settler-colonial states such as the United States of America, Israel, Australia, and the like. Individuals such as Lauren Southern, Ben Shapiro, Mike Enoch, Jordan Peterson, and Gavin McInnes are the result of capitalism's inherent contradictions seeking to be resolved in the most reactionary of ways."

—F. M. M: Maoism For The Masses Editor, Address To The Black Masses

⬟ (1-28)

"U.S. propaganda runs deeper than we could ever imagine. The foundations allowing for the indoctrination of capitalism, reaction, and fascism thoroughly marinate the cultural, academic, and political substrates as well. It takes on the minds of those who think of themselves as 'free thinkers,' 'debaters,' and 'rationalists,' who are tiny lapdogs of the imperialist agenda. When militant imperialism has rested, laying down its arms after the enemy,

the big counter against its position has fallen, it now turns to academic hegemony to crush the rational criticisms of its rule. But since imperialism cannot tangibly maintain itself rationally, it turns to criticisms and attacks, which lead down the path of dehumanization.

"Thus, the true philosophers and peddlers and defenders of imperialism and US hegemony, along with Western interests, are little birds who have come to wholeheartedly accept the evil global order, regurgitating the food offered to them by the 'mama bird' itself: imperialism, capitalism, reaction, fascism. They accept the offer of being subjugated to evil in exchange for 'peace,' 'prosperity,' and 'security.' But when the war comes knocking on your door and US soldiers seem cold and indifferent to your survival in the face of a rapidly advancing foe who now marches in your direction, all of these things come crashing down."
—Comrade Justine, *Original Quote*

● (1-29) ℹ
"Considering we're already at >1.6°C, the most at risk are those in the imperial periphery, and that the only public-facing apparatus taking climate catastrophe seriously are imperialist militaries, guided by xenophobia, chauvinism, and nationalism, time is god-damn short. Accordingly, Marxist-Leninist-Maoist organizing in the periphery and active material support from groups in the core is strategically way more crucial than imperial core 'awareness raising' and 'pressure.'

"Yes, 100 companies produce 71% of CO2 emissions; however, if you look at the list, they produce those emissions in the service of the lifestyle enjoyed in the imperial core by the global petit-bourgeoisie, or 'net exploiters' if that's more palatable. The only group that appears easy to cut without a degrowth campaign is the military, until you realize that the imperial hierarchy and cartel equilibrium would collapse without the threat of force. It is not reductive to say the answer is proletarian revolution."
—J.A. Sterling: Maoism For The Masses Contributor, *Maoism For The Masses Ecosocialism Channel*

▼ (1-30) ✪

“It is quite evident that in the grand struggle between imperialism and masses, the tides have taken the side of the former this century. In Palestine, the most live-streamed genocide in history has carried on seamlessly despite the most valiant efforts of the resistance. In India, the Hindu nationalist state continues to encroach on the Naxals’ liberated territory, reinstating moribund caste hierarchies. In the Philippines, Marcos Jr. has declared the CPP-NPA’s guerrilla fronts to have been quashed, with a final settlement on the way. In Sudan, Congo, and Haiti—some of the most oppressed and plundered corners of the globe—organized movements truly on the side of the masses are yet to emerge. To change this reality, as bleak as it may be, we must first acknowledge it.

“Yet these very years are the perfect time for communists to remember what they are capable of. From the Battle of Stalingrad to the Tet Offensive, our progenitors’ undying will to liberation carries on. There is no reason for it to have died down, as the class contradictions necessitating it have only intensified. Victory was never supposed to be easy, but always possible. There is no absolute fate in this world but what the masses make of it.”
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

⬟ (1-31)

“One day we will win. The day may seem distant and stretch far into the future. Today may be stolen from us by reactionaries of all types and makes, capitalists with insurmountable wealth, fascists with seemingly unending support, and counter-revolutionaries whose surging hordes may be armed either with weapons or a false consciousness masked as ‘intellect.’

“One thing is sure, however: so long as there exists oppression, the oppressor will continue to aggravate and irritate its subjects. Then, inevitably, the subject will arise. It is not a matter of if, but a matter of when the oppressed will win against their oppressor. For as long as the communists hope and breathe, they will eventually come out as the victor.”
—Comrade Justine, Original Quote

2—Historical Materialism

The foremost tool for analyzing past and present society

● (2-1)

"History is made because of the conflict between the ruling class and the exploited class of all societies, whether those were slave societies (with slave-owners and slaves), feudal societies (with landlords and tenants), or capitalist societies (with capitalists and workers). As slave society fell from slave revolts, feudalism took its place; as feudalism fell from bourgeois revolutions, capitalism took its place. There are other contradictions, like that between productive forces and relations of production, as well, which is that after the productive forces are developed to a certain level within a mode of production, the existing relations of production hinder the further development of the productive forces."

—Paul Kingsley*, Manifesto of the ACP(M)*

⬟ (2-2)

"Productive forces are the technologies, fixed assets, and worker knowledge that allow the current level of efficiency, volume, and speed in the production process.

"Relations of production are the social relationships between people in the process and how they shape and are shaped by the division of labor, property ownership, structures of exploitation, etc, which determines how surplus value is extracted, how wealth is distributed, what is produced and how it's allocated, how workers relate to each other, the products of their labor, and nature."

—J.A. Sterling: Maoism For The Masses Contributor, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (2-3)

"If the arc bends, it is because people have bent it. That is why Marx insists on class struggle and revolution rather than passive development of the productive forces bringing about a richer and more equal society."

—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

● (2-4) ✪

"We have lived 200,000 years without greed in our society. Now, when capitalism shows up, apparently, humans are greedy. It seems that the problem here is capitalism, our modern material conditions in the current world, causing us to adapt with greed. If we don't have a communist revolution soon, we will live with greed as an evolutionary trait. If anything, this argument supports the need for a socialist revolution."

—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *Quora*

⬟ (2-5)

"If we take the organic experience of a human and apply it towards history, any newborn phase of society post-revolution is fragile and requires constant supervision by revolutionary guardians to prevent its premature death and ensure progress towards its objectives. In socialism, those guardians are the vanguard party and the masses. Once society has matured into its adult epoch, it has solidified its position within the world order, surviving subversion by reactionary reapers.

"Likewise, it eventually grows old and begins to deteriorate from contradictions between the relations of production and productive forces, leading to a deadly collapse at its moribund point. However, the society of higher-stage communism remains stable, for class contradictions have been resolved. The philosophy of historical materialism, based on dialectics, is applied toward societal progression throughout history and the future; new contradictions arise and resolve through struggle to keep society moving forward."

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (2-6)

"Feudalism as a system is far more diverse and layered than capitalism. For example, even though they had some essential characteristics in common, feudalism in the Islamic world was quite different from Christian Europe. Decentralized feudalism (e.g., most of medieval Europe) versus centralized feudalism (e.g., the Islamic world and China) is one of the major demarcations. Late-stage feudalism is further complicated by the development of the seeds of capitalism sprouting within its framework.

“European feudalism was a predominantly agrarian society based largely on natural production, an economic model whereby communities usually produce everything for their own consumption and sell little to nothing as commodities. They only did so when they had a considerable surplus. Acquiring money wasn't necessary in an economy with self-sufficient communities, which naturally minimized trade. It is contrasted with commodity production, which represents the complete opposite — production for sale rather than personal use.”
—M, *‘Ask A Maoist’ Hotline*

⬟ (2-7)
“The seeds of capitalism would sprout from urban petty commodity production and the rise of trade. The countryside would gradually commercialize as well, so that peasants would pay more and more taxes in money, and nobles would increasingly bourgeoisify. Sea trade, primitive accumulation, and colonialism played indispensable roles in the rise of capitalism. Engels believed that capitalism first arose in Italy during the 16th century, where the cities were most developed.”
—M, ‘*Ask A Maoist’ Hotline*

⬤ (2-8)
“Religion, in principle, isn’t solely an opiate for the masses – it provides moral teachings such as generosity and love for thy neighbor. But the practice of religion has historically been used in various social situations to dissuade any revolutionary fervor, bringing them under submission to the ruling class.”
—Mena Redd: Maoism For The Masses Contributor, Original Quote

▼ (2-9)
“In some cases, religion alone leads people to do irrational things. In Saudi Arabia, however, it seems that religion is not the primary culprit. Wahhabism, after all, was founded in 1744 to provide political legitimacy and regular tithes to the al-Saud family. In the 1920s, Abdulaziz Ibn Saud used it as a means to unite the various tribes and form the modern nation of Saudi Arabia. It is a tool of the political and economic elite, not the other way around.”
—Robby LaBurne, *Why Tyranny Exists*

⬟ (2-10)

"On some versions of the inegalitarian argument from nature, we might expect hunter-gatherers to be Hobbesian, perhaps Ik-like. Their members live under conditions of what we would call extreme scarcity, low technology, and relatively simple culture—'no commodious buildings, no instruments of moving and removing … no arts, no letters.'... Hobbes would have predicted that they would live in a state of war. But the anthropologist Marshall Sahlins found societies under these circumstances in which people are not competitive, aggressive, or suspicious. They spend three to five hours a day gathering food, and the rest of their time telling stories and sleeping.

"I do not mean to romanticize such societies or suggest that they provide feasible or even attractive alternatives for us. I invoke them only as evidence that we do not have to be Hobbesean. Nor do we have to choose between destitution and mutual terror for some and poverty for many, with frenetic and ceaseless labor for all."

—Justin Schwartz, *It Ain't Necessarily So: The Misuse Of 'Human Nature' In Law And Social Policy And The Bankruptcy Of The 'Nature-Nurture' Debate*

⬟ (2-11)

"Nowadays, humanity's struggle with nature no longer defines history. The lions and tigers that hindered the development of primitive societies have been hunted for hundreds of years and are now being driven to extinction. Some of our struggles with nature are essentially economic; just look at global warming. Even the Black Plague would not have occurred without merchant ships and human migration transporting germs through the continents of Europe and Asia, sometimes intentionally."

—Robby LaBurne, *Response To Jordan Peterson's Critique Of The Communist Manifesto*

▼ (2-12) ✪

"There was a great proverb that no empire lasts forever. Those who cause those 'eternal' empires' decline and inevitable death aren't some 'great men of history.' They come from the masses of their colonies who have been enslaved to the desires of their ruling classes for decades or centuries. That also includes the internal crisis among the wielders of state power – the ruling class – due to naturally contradicting interests or paranoia towards each other. In totality, the true graveyard of empires is the masses alone. It is

them who are history's loudest trumpet, outshining all ideals and even the leaders who inspire them the most."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (2-13) ✪
"Human development naturally 'makes everyone richer.' Over the past five millennia, quality of life has indeed improved for everyone due to advancements in productive forces. Under the slave system, humans invented the wheel and writing. 'Jordan Petersons' of that time, such as Plato, idealized the institution of slavery and argued for its perpetuated existence. In the years after, the feudal system in Tang China "made people richer" with the development of the printing press and gunpowder. By the same logic, capitalism has made everyone richer through its vast advancements in productive forces. Yet just like these other systems, there comes a time when humanity must leave capitalism behind."
—Robby LaBurne, *Response To Jordan Peterson's Critique Of The Communist Manifesto*

3—Marxism and Its Evolution

Image by Comrade Justine

▼ (3-1)

"The idea of Marxism is to build a classless society that is the most just. The methodology of Marxism is dialectical materialism and historical materialism. Marx and Engels lived in the era of the free market, so they described and analyzed it. Lenin lived in a different capitalist era. He studied it, describing it as the era of imperialism, which continues to this day.

"Marx and Engels discovered the very basis of exploitation, the capitalist system, as well as the chronology of events—how humanity got to capitalism. Lenin and Stalin lived in another time and another country, and under these circumstances, they brought Marxism to life. Lenin was more of a practitioner, and he developed a clear concept of the transition from capitalism to communism, through socialist revolutions in the countries of the world and the gradual establishment of proletarian dictatorships with the construction of socialist planned economies."

—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

▼ (3-2)

"To understand capitalist society, we must understand its most basic unit, the commodity. Commodities have use value and value; they can also only be obtained by exchange. Use value is the utility of something, and this is purely qualitative.

"Exchange value is the ratio at which a commodity can be exchanged for another commodity; it is merely a form of value that appears to calculate how two different commodities must be traded. Exchange value is determined by the value of two commodities. For example, if a chair took 4 socially necessary labor hours while a table took 8, then the exchange value of the table would be two chairs. Generally, exchange value is represented in price, or its form in money. Exchange value is affected by supply and demand; if a commodity has a higher supply, its exchange value is lower, and if it has a higher demand (i.e., if other commodities have a higher supply), then its exchange value is higher."

—Paul Kingsley, *An Introduction To The Labor Theory Of Value*

▼ (3-3) ℹ

"*Fundamentals of Political Economy* teaches us that 'as surplus value is transformed into profit, the rate of surplus value is transformed into the rate of profit.' Surplus value is but another way to say unpaid labor. In individual cases, supply and demand may blur the lines between surplus value and profit; it is difficult to tell from which source Apple, 3M, or Lockheed Martin derive every dollar of their assets. However, across the entire society, the relation between profit and extraction of surplus-value (theft) remains principal."

—Robby LaBurne, *Response to Jordan Peterson's Critique of the Communist Manifesto*

⬟ (3-4) ✪

"Workers are unfree in a sense relevantly like the unfreedom of the slave or the serf. I call the intended sense coercion, by which I mean to capture Marx's idea that exploited producers are forced to transfer surplus to exploiters. They must do so because they lack production, and the situation is avoidable. Capitalism and other forms of class society involve unnecessary unfreedom due to the alterable class structure of society. A 'realm of necessity' remains even under communism in the form of necessary

labour (Marx, 19676, p. 820), but in class society, differential ownership of productive assets (DOPA) creates unfreedom which need not exist. The existence of such 'surplus unfreedom' is Marx's objection to capitalist exploitation."
—Justin Schwartz, *In Defense Of Exploitation*

▼ (3-5)
"Capitalism reinforces property rights for a small handful of monopolists who utilize capital to acquire production, landlordship, and personal luxury. However, private ownership is growing extinct among the working class, increasingly disenfranchised from the right to hold property. They are unable to pay rising rent with depreciating real wages, let alone open a business as small as a food truck.

"Socialism will seize private property from the capitalists, transforming it into socialized property to be utilized for the improvement of the material and cultural standards of the people."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (3-6) ℹ
"Anti-Marxists strawman Marx and other classical economists by claiming that, according to the theory that the measure of value is the measure of the labor needed to make the commodity, a commodity made by a lazier worker is more valuable. On the contrary, two identical use values (e.g., two pencils), if both are commodities, have the same measures of value because, on average, both require the same amount of labor time to be made.

"Anti-Marxists also claim that "according to this theory", a useless thing like a mud pie has value determined by the labor it takes to be made; Marx knew that to have value, a product must first have use value, so it must satisfy a need.

"Socially necessary labor time is made of two kinds of labor: direct labor and indirect labor. Direct labor is labor that goes directly into making a product; indirect labor is all other labor needed for production, including making means of production (and making the means of production needed to make means of production, etc.), administering and managing production, distributing anything needed, growing and/or harvesting materials,

processing materials, etc. Of these, direct labor is special. (For larger means of production used for multiple cycles, like most complex machines, we use depreciation or the fall in value of the machine to determine how much of its value was put into producing the new commodity.) Within direct labor, skilled labor produces more value per socially necessary labor hour than less-skilled labor.

"It is important to remember that only commodities have value; therefore, value is only a characteristic when products of labor are being exchanged. This is because value has a social reality, so it only exists due to societal conditions. In contrast, use value has a physical reality; it can be observed on the product itself."
—Paul Kingsley, *An Introduction to the Labor Theory of Value*

● (3-7)
"Scientific socialism is the science of revolution grounded within a historical context, engaging with the system as it currently exists, developing an understanding of why people behave the way they do, and how human society changes over time. In other words, scientific socialism is the science of revolution which uses the outlook and method of dialectical materialism."
—J.A. Sterling, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (3-8)
"A scientific analysis of political economy or social reality in general can penetrate the surface appearances of social phenomena to unveil the essences behind the phenomena. Thus, a scientific political economy would penetrate the surface appearances like prices, wages, profit, and interest, to unveil the underlying essences as embodied in value, exploitation, and the social relations of production. Smith and Ricardo were seen as doing just that. And indeed their work tended to emphasize the role of class and of class conflict and to recognize the existence of different modes of production. In fact, Smith can be seen as one of the progenitors of what Marx would call the materialist conception of history."
—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

▼ (3-9)

"There is a concept in Marxism called 'alienation.' It's basically when people lose their humanity because of the way they are exploited in a society of stratified social classes."

—Danny Wong, *Quora*

Image by Robby LaBurne

⬟ (3-10)

"What is opposite to compassion is alienation. Alienation separates, atomizes, and deindividualizes – since true individuality is found with a sense of community. Old alienation, as Marx pointed out, has its roots in the origin of the commodity. For example, who packages the bottled water we drink?

But we are way past that. Though old social relations remain present, times change, and trends evolve. Whereas the old and still present alienation remains, a new one has arisen in trying to outshine the elder. It is a type of

alienation that separates us from true love, making us feel atomized beyond our part in the labor force, but not separate from it, and being entirely because of it."
—Comrade Justine, Original Quote

● (3-11)
"After a brief while of searching for alternatives, I've realized something. There is nothing left. Marxism has been the most historically successful way of abolishing capitalism. So I guess, in other terms, I am still a Marxist."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (3-12)
"Marxism, more so than any other ideology, presents the identity of the individual as most irrelevant to the class struggles that dominate history. Even people with seemingly reactionary identities, from the capitalist Friedrich Engels to the Qing Emperor Puyi, have thrown down their shackles of birth and embraced their new persona as socialist theorists and citizens."
—Robby LaBurne, *Response To Jordan Peterson's Critique Of The Communist Manifesto*

● (3-13)
"Some things that the Communist Party of Peru created were concentric construction, the militarization of the party, guiding thought, and jefatura."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (3-14) ✪
"It's not uncommon to hear the 'human nature' argument against Marxism. Ironically, Marx's theory remains popular precisely because of human nature—it is in our nature to labor, but not to the point of alienation; it is in our nature to be selfish and domineering, but so is our instinct to be altruistic and fair; and above all, it is in our nature to crave recreation, community, and purpose."
—Danny Wong, Original Quote

⬟ (3-15)
"Moreover, this means labour under conditions of domination that deprive workers of the free development of their powers and capacities that constitute self-realization. Capitalistic manufacture 'subjects the previously

independent workman to the discipline and commands of capital [and] ... creates a hierarchic gradation of the workmen themselves', a domination which 'converts the labourer into a crippled monstrosity at the expense of a world of productive capabilities' (Marx 1967a, p. 369). Domination, as well, inhibits workers' abilities to act on their own aims. In capitalist production, 'time for education, for intellectual development, for fulfilling social functions and for social intercourse, for the free play of ... bodily and mental activity...' is 'moonshine!' (Marx, 1967a, p. 264). Labour under these conditions 'confiscates every atom of freedom, both in bodily and intellectual activity' (1967a, p. 423)."
—Justin Schwartz, *In Defense Of Exploitation*

⬟ (3-16)
"Marx introduces a new term for us to analyze: the general (average) rate of profit. The general rate of profit can be calculated using the formula for the Rate of Exploitation: s/v. The relation between the general rate of profit to the Organic Composition of Capital (c/v), hence, is contradictory. The formula for the general rate of profit is (s/v)/(c/v+1).

"Assuming c/v does not change, the capitalists only need to keep s/v at a specific point to maintain the rate of profit. However, naturally, c/v has to increase. There can be various reasons why c/v increases. The capitalists may replace the workers with machines, causing wages to stagnate, or simply lower wages out of random motives, c/v naturally increases. However, in general, the rise in c/v and the relative fall of v lowers the general rate of profit.

"Therefore, generally, the Rate of Profit is cursed to fall by capitalism itself. Hence, we can see in the chart above that the Rate of Profit, despite sometimes increasing during wars, tends to go down, and has no long-term hope of going up. The falling rate of profit renders capitalism's doom."
—Omar El-Sayed, *Quora*

Illustration by Robby LaBurne

⬟ (3-17)

"Species Being Alienation has two main components. First, such alienation denies a sort of freedom which is realized in or only in activity with a particular character—free labour, that is, performed for its own sake, not merely for a further purpose, such as earning wages. Second, it denies a basic human need for such activity; we cannot attain self-realization or happiness if we are thus alienated."

"Labour is a 'manifestation of freedom', says Marx, when 'only the individual himself posits [its aims]'; this is 'real freedom (reale Freiheit], whose action is precisely work'. Through taking the aims of labour as one's own goals, the external constraints on it 'are stripped of their character as merely external natural necessity' (Marx 1986b; p. 530; 1983, p. 512). This is Marx's Hegelian version of Rousseau's thesis that 'freedom is obedience to the law one has prescribed to oneself', which Rousseau calls 'moral liberty' as opposed to 'natural' and 'civil' liberty (Rousseau, 1987, p. 151). The latter are roughly negative liberty as freedom from constraint and positive liberty as effective power to act."

"Moral liberty or real freedom is something further. It involves the conscious acceptance of the goals of one's activity as one's own in the strong sense that the activity is done primarily for its own sake. The notion is close to the conception of autonomy defended by Frankfurt (1989). Real freedom can

only be attained, for Marx, outside the production of material needs, because this remains, under the best of circumstances, ‘a realm of necessity.’ Beyond it begins the development of human energy which is an end in itself, the true realm of freedom' (Marx 1967b, p. 820, emphasis added). Real freedom is found in productive activity as an end in itself. (This is consistent with its having further purposes as well.) Necessary labour, even if voluntary, is unfree because it is necessary. Marx's example of really free labour is composing music.”
—Justin Schwartz, *In Defense Of Exploitation*

▼ (3-18)
“Utopian socialists advocated creating a utopia, a small ideal community that workers would flock to, encouraging capitalists to go there, expand it, and peacefully give their means of production to workers. That is erroneous, for it is based on idealism and ignores the antagonism between opposing class interests. Marxism, in contrast, is based on materialism.”
—Paul Kingsley, *Marxism Is Not Utopian*

⬟ (3-19)
“And in the following decade, capitalist economies would be hit with a new economic crisis, which was characterized by what came to be called stagflation: a combination of recession and inflation. Once again, some mainstream economists began to pay greater attention to the work of Marx. However, this moment would last only for a short while. By the early 1980s, there was a sharp political shift to the right, the economy had begun to improve again, and with these political and economic changes, once again, mainstream economists began to feel that they could safely ignore Marx’s work.”
—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

⬟ (3-20)
“Isaac Newton and Galileo Galilei had never conceived of Einstein’s general relativity in their times. Probably, they had other theories on how spacetime works. Yet if they were alive during the time of Einstein, they would’ve accepted it. All science is a *group effort*, and unless someone has a large amount of data to back it up, they know they can’t always be right.

Likewise, while Marx and Engels provided the base for Marxism, they didn't complete it, and neither has anyone in that regard."
—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

● (3-21)
"We're Marxist-Leninist-Maoists; we uphold that Maoism is the Marxism of today. In the relationship with the genuine Marxist-Leninist or with the genuine upholder of Mao Zedong Thought, we should view them as our friend, not as a full revisionist, even if they have a short-sighted view about Maoism. While acknowledging their shortcomings, we acknowledge their communist spirit and we will try to unite with them while struggling and educating them to update their perspective to Marxism of today, which is Marxism-Leninism-Maoism."
—Manitou, Original Quote

▼ (3-22)
"Things must also be upheld with something such as the mass line developed by Mao Tse-tung in order to make sure the nation does not ever fall and that it will stand against all threats as one. Nations united under this principle have almost never fallen, or they have fallen by their disunity. The lesson that we must all take from these nations is that disunity is failure and should not be tolerated, and only the unity presented by Marxism is the only way for the people to remain strong and united."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *Quora*

⬟ (3-23)
"The Protracted People's War has 3 main stages: the defensive stage, the stalemate, and the offensive stage. In order to have a people's war, you must first have a people. The way of doing this is by the mass line (incorporating the ideas of the people through a Marxist lens to gain support among the masses), and new democracy (unity of the proletariat, peasantry, petite bourgeoisie, and national bourgeoisie) in a semi-feudal country.

"In order to make the people's war effective, the people must wield 3 weapons:

1. The Communist Party—built on the theory of concentric construction and militarization of the party, the party dominates the people's army and the united front to best combat revisionism.

2. The People's Army—soldiers fighting for the party.
3. The United Front—as the name suggests, the union of mass organizations against the bourgeois state and imperialism.

“The first defensive stage is when the people are weaker than the state. Usually, a massive retreat is in order, in which the people's army would stretch the enemy's supply line over rough terrain, and the use of guerrilla warfare and hit-and-run tactics is prevalent. This is known as the ‘protracted’ part.

“The next stage is the stalemate, which, as suggested, is when the people and the state are equally matched in terms of power. Lastly, there is the offensive stage. Once the people are stronger than the state and the enemy's morale is low, positional warfare (building fortifications, capturing areas, and fighting the enemy in those areas captured) and mobile warfare (having the army in a constant state of motion) are used to finally beat back the state and crush it once and for all.”
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, Original Quote

⬟ (3-24)
“Two-line struggle is defined by irreconcilable contradictions between rightists and the communists, representing different class factions within the party. While the former wants to liquidate socialism and resuscitate the bourgeoisie, the latter seeks to solidify and advance the proletarian revolution. Fallacies by the right cadres will face criticism by the left cadres with no sparing attitude, for their ideas subvert the revolution from within, but the left cadres' fallacies will also be met with criticism, for they are genuine but misguided revolutionaries. The ‘ultra-left’ deviationist line must be wrestled against, for it poses as the ‘revolutionary left’ while it denounces the genuine left, clearing the road for the right deviationist coup.”
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (3-25)
“Cultural revolution is not aesthetic or wanton reform. It is the dialectical transformation of ideology, the resolution of contradictions between old and new class forces, base and superstructure, spontaneity and leadership. Its methods are mass-driven, continuous, and grounded in material analysis.

“As Mao said, 'the bourgeoisie is right inside the Communist Party.’ So, the solution must be right inside: an ongoing, organized cultural revolution where people, theory, and ideology converge to crush the embryonic bourgeoisie in every form it tries to reemerge. A cultural revolution, at its core, centers the proletarian experience of education, art, media, religious institutions, and more; and which reconfigures that experience toward internationalism, collectivism (anti-individualism), socialist pedagogy, and methods of persistent ideological struggle (criticism/self-criticism).”
—J.A. Sterling, Original Quote

⬟ (3-26)
“New democracy has nothing to do with class collaboration, and everything to do with class struggle. It is an alliance of all anti-feudal, anti-imperialist classes under proletarian party leadership. Besides the proletariat, it includes the peasantry, petty bourgeoisie, and national bourgeoisie. Its class enemies are the comprador bourgeoisie, feudal landlords, and foreign imperialists.

“New democracy is necessary in all semi-feudal, semi-colonial countries, such as China before the communists took power. This is because of the alignment of class contradictions—the remnants of feudalism necessitate a bourgeois-democratic revolution, and the domination of foreign imperialists necessitates a national revolution. It is only natural for all the classes which have a vested interest in at least one of these goals to unite in a single bloc, including the national bourgeoisie.”
—J.A. Sterling, *‘Ask A Maoist’ Hotline*

▼ (3-27)
“Non-industrialized nations are just like the unborn baby; they must still pass the capitalist stage of social development, so they can advance to socialism without deficiencies and gain the ability to walk. They’ll need to pass a brief capitalist stage of social development, in which capitalism will operate but be regulated and controlled by the working class, until there is no need for it, which is when it will be abolished.”
—Omar El Sayed, *Socialist Transition*

▼ (3-28)

"While it is certainly true that, most of the time, mainstream economists ignore Marxism, sometimes they do not, or rather, they find that sometimes they cannot get away with ignoring Marxism, as much as they might like to. The time of the Great Depression and the Second World War was one such period. The events of that era led many millions of people, including some of the most prominent intellectuals of that era, to question the viability and desirability of capitalism."

—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

● (3-29) ✪

"Most of Marx's major predictions, which are not gnomic prophecies but follow from the logic of the theory itself, have been vindicated: that capitalism, more or less confined to Britain in the mid-19th century, would become a global system—and yes, the fall of "communism" is the final vindication of that prediction; that it would tremendously expand the productive forces while at the same time tearing apart all human connections except monetary ones; that it would increasingly divide the world into two opposed classes, propertyless workers and wealthy capitalists with not much left between; that it would degrade work to misery and eat up people's lives in the search for larger profits for the few; that the expansion of the market system would be disastrously unstable, tending to tip into crisis, contrary to the views of the mainstream economists; that the government would fall under the control of the bourgeoisie, the big capitalists. I could go on. All this has come true."

—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

4—Classes and Class Struggle

● (4-1)

"The Marxist concept of class evolves from the belief that capitalists are unfairly exploiting surplus value from their laborers. In simple words, the bourgeoisie only exists because of the value created by workers that exceeds the value needed to maintain them. Today, that hasn't changed. Workers around the world are still being paid minimum wage, no matter if they create twice, thrice, or ten times that amount in value. The same production relations created in the birth of the bourgeoisie are still alive today, solely because this principle carries on as well."

—Robby LaBurne, *Response To Jordan Peterson's Critique Of The Communist Manifesto*

● (4-2)

"The productive relations are the social and economic relationships within a society. They include the relationships between people and the means of production, and the relationship between people themselves, such as people owning the means of production and people using the means of production.

"A group of people with the same relations of production is a social class. Classless societies are those where everyone owns and uses the means of production, so naturally, class societies are those where different groups of people relate to the means of production differently. Now, classlessness does *not* mean absolute equality. Class is not defined by one's income, so if everyone owns and uses some means of production but otherwise has unequal incomes, they would still be part of the same class; conversely, people with the same income but different relations of production do not belong to the same class."

—Paul Kingsley*, Manifesto of the ACP(M)*

● (4-3) ✪

"The risk capitalists absorb is the risk of ceasing to be a capitalist. Workers, of course, absorb the risk of losing their jobs as well as death, injury, or illness if the capitalist undermines their working conditions."

—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

● (4-4)

"The world belongs to the masses; the exploiting classes simply occupy it."
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

● (4-5)

Growing up on a farm in Punjab, my struggles were about the same as everyone else's there. We barely made a living from selling crops. We lacked infrastructure, electricity, and running water. The government is useless in all affairs. As I stated before, people know what the problems are; the thing is, they are extremely uneducated. In America, 90% of everything you hear is controlled by six news stations. In India, news is barely reached by anyone at all."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *Serious Discussions Channel*

▼ (4-6)

"It is a quite useful tool of the bourgeoisie to tell us that inequality is the root of the problem and not a symptom of capitalism. That feeds into the reformist propaganda slogan, 'Just tax the rich and have welfare, and we'll be fine'. If we focus too much of our energy and effort on this issue, we are inevitably going to hurt the revolutionary cause of the working class."
—Paul Kingsley, *Manifesto of the ACP(M)*

● (4-7)

"Workers may not grow poorer as capitalists grow richer, but an increase in relative inequality may be objectionable even if the workers' share grows absolutely (Marx, 1977, p. 221). This may be an issue of freedom as well as justice. Not only will capitalists have more positive freedom than workers in a way that lacks obvious justification, but workers will have less, absolutely, than they might."
—Justin Schwartz, *In Defense Of Exploitation*

▼ (4-8)

"The wealth of the capitalist class grows despite capitalists being more or less idle in comparison to their workers. Hell, their wealth grows even as they sleep. Workers have no such luxuries; the only way they get income is by selling their very capacity to work, their ability to produce value."
—Paul Kingsley, *"Capitalism is Meritocratic" is Incorrect*

▼ (4-9)

"Under capitalism, the situation is very different from the hypothetical simple exchange economy. There, people can survive without having to enter into any exchanges, whereas, under capitalism, people do have to enter into exchanges in the labor market with capitalists, if they wish to survive."

—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

● (4-10) ✪

"The key thing is not that capitalism is this system where the badness of which is explained by the badness of the people who are in charge, but by the nature of the incentives that it provides for people to behave badly and the effects of their behavior. Even if all were good, generous, decent, kind, gentle people who were generous and compassionate, they could not behave much other than they do and stay in business. In short, it is not a moralistic critique of individuals; it is a structural critique of the institutions of the social system."

—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

Image by F.M.M.

● (4-11)

"The people who are your true brothers are the proletariat of all backgrounds, not the two-faced bourgeoisie — exploiting your labor-power, dehumanizing you to the level of insects to erect their giant colonies, and stomping on you when they consider you 'undesirable.' Our slogan is very concise in action for no war but class war, and no hate but class hate!"

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (4-12)

"In the Cultural Revolution, the working masses not only fought reactionary and revisionist cultures and ideologies, but they also fought corrupt party elites, bureaucrats, and the privileges that they had."

—Paul Kingsley, *The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution*

▼ (4-13) i

"After all, the global fast food industry is worth $570 billion, and there is a correlation between food deserts and fast-food restaurants. Even for those who avoid these establishments, discounted food, as seen above, still tends to be unhealthy. Though it may be somewhat cheap to put together a salad or protein bowl, it's likely even cheaper to buy a box of Kraft Mac-N-Cheese. Often lacking awareness of their health effects, it's a consequence of the system for some working-class individuals to opt for the latter."

—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

⬟ (4-14)

"Lumpen are those with false class consciousness (i.e., reactionaries) and misaligned class consciousness. You can be an unemployed person, a disabled person, or working in the black market (whether it's hot/fake purses, drugs, sex work, etc.), and absolutely still be proletarian. This is crucial if you're delineating class in your nation and if you're using net-exploitation to define 'who is a proletarian?' or 'who is my ally?' in the case of a potential united front."

—J.A. Sterling, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

▼ (4-15)

"The bitter truth is even the most saintly strata of the bourgeoisie can be conniving to the masses, since the laws of capitalism force them to.

Abraham Lincoln was still a racial chauvinist who supported mass deportations, even as he fought against slavery; he would have never struggled for racial equality like Malcolm X, Fred Hampton, or Bobby Seale would in the future. Even if bourgeois politicians vote against genocide and for universal healthcare, they would still vote for other resolutions and legislation to benefit their cronies, which harm the welfare of the people."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (4-16)
"The comprador bourgeoisie are capitalists who are directly subservient to foreign imperialists. Their business is deeply connected to both imperialist finance capital and feudal landlords. They are the richest section of the bourgeoisie; their position is entirely dependent on the privileges afforded to them by imperialism.

The national bourgeoisie are capitalists whose development is constrained by the comprador capitalists, feudalism, and imperialism. Foreign capital represents a dangerous competitor to their business. They are the representatives of national capital, i.e., of domestic business, and form the middle stratum of the bourgeoisie. Because of their constriction by imperialism, they can become an ally of the proletariat in an anti-imperialist, national-democratic revolution. There are still, however, contradictions between it and the proletariat.
—M., '*Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (4-17)
"Petty-bourgeois incomes don't take on the same form as proletarian incomes. Workers sell their labor power; petty capitalists sell the products of their labor power and thus get "all the value of their work." All capitalists' incomes come from the sale of their commodities, and that makes petty capitalists part of the bourgeoisie, not really their own class separate from the bourgeoisie. What makes them unique is that their labor makes the commodities themselves, while middle and big capitalists' labor is simply that which ensures their workers' labor produces the commodities properly."
—Paul Kingsley, *Quora*

⬟ (4-18) ℹ

"Wages have been proven not to cause skyrocketing inflation within the economy. When labor strikes for higher wages to afford the means of subsistence, the bourgeoisie still has to abide by the laws of competition. In addition, the laws of class struggle, embodied in strikes and protests, often compel capitalists to raise wages as appeasement. However, price gouging is the true catalyst of inflation, admitted to by the U.S. Federal Reserve. Contrary to the claims of reactionary intellectuals, an increase in wages helps to correctly counter the overproduction of unsold commodities, which is the cause of recessions in capitalist economies."

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (4-19)

"We see from this that polarization does not merely come out of a difference of opinion; it is often a product of fundamental class contradictions. In a society with a class of exploiters and a class of laborers, they are meant to diverge on critical issues from healthcare to climate to war. Any attempt to unify them would be denying the existence of the ruling world system."

—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

⬟ (4-20)

"The labor aristocracy consists of the privileged, highly-paid workers in imperialist countries like technical engineers, health specialists, software engineers, corporate managers, leaders, and members of reformist trade unions. Among the working people, they contain the highest dosage of false consciousness, including staunch intellectually lazy defenses of reformist tendencies, scapegoating of lower 'welfare-leeching' proletarians, expressing chauvinism against immigrants, and benefiting from imperialism. They are the class of 'bourgeois wannabes.'"

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

5—Socialism and Communism

A theoretical outline of a collectively prosperous society

▼ (5-1)

"When we say socialism, we define it as the transitional period between capitalism and communism, where steps are made to transition away from capitalism and toward communism, these steps being the abolition of private property, abolition of market economy, implementation of planned economy, the establishment of what we refer to the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the subsequent suppression of the the bourgeoisie, who you remember are the ruling class in capitalism. To quote Vladimir Lenin, 'the goal of socialism is communism.'"

—F.M.M., *Address To The Black Masses*

● (5-2) ✪

"Under socialism, many human qualities—honesty, justice, kindness, and decency—are multiplied! With a capital system where it is every man for himself, this is impossible, which means that society is decomposing. Capitalism has no future; it is a primitive civilization, living by animal instincts."

—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

● (5-3)

"A key feature of socialism is the control of the economy by the working class through its state: this means the workers' state owns means of production, either completely or most of the economy, with the rest of it being owned by workers' cooperatives; economic plans that central leadership and decentralized enterprises make together determine how the economy grows and evolves."

—Paul Kingsley, *Quora*

⬟ (5-4) ✪

"Scientific socialism prioritizes production according to use value, meaning that it primarilyproduces lots of necessary utilitiesand may underproduce luxuriesas a secondary priority, despite the latter's profitability. After a revolution, the development of a command economy reconciles the contradiction between the productive forces and the relations of production, proving that soon communism will be the future."

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (5-5) ℹ

"*Fundamentals of Political Economy* asserts that there are five principal forms of exchange under socialism.

1. Exchange within different firms in the state industrial economy.
2. Exchange between the state and the collective agricultural economy.
3. Exchange within the collective agricultural economy.
4. Exchange from the state economy to individual workers.
5. Exchange between the collective economy and individuals.

The first is a direct, planned social product exchange, the middle three are commodity exchanges, and the last one resembles direct product distribution under communism; there is no money involved in that exchange.

"Additionally, there are eight essential economic 'balances' that determine socialist planning.

1. Balance between industry and agriculture.
2. Balance between different sectors of agriculture.
3. Balance between different sectors of industry.
4. Balance between material production, communication, and transportation.
5. Balance between investment in production, state services, culture, and national defense.
6. Balance between economic and population growth.
7. Balance between short-term consumption and long-term accumulation.
8. Balance across different regions and provinces.

Pricing is a useful tool in maintaining these balances, but it must not become the determining factor in creating the economic plan. Only by ensuring the

balance of these eight factors can a centrally planned economy be prosperous."
—Robby LaBurne, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (5-6) ℹ
"The Soviet book on political economy from 1954 talks about how health and other services were decommodified, hence they were 'unproductive' economically, but necessary otherwise. In contrast, barber shops, laundromats, and restaurants – non-necessities – were thus commodified."
—Paul Kingsley, 'Ask A Maoist' Hotline

● (5-7)
"'Why centralized production?', 'Planned economies don't work,' and so on, they ignorantly say! However, a plan is vastly better than market anarchy, where corporate bandits plunder the resources of the world through profit-driven wars, reckless overproduction, and the deprivation of the proletariat. In socialism, the proletarian state monitors the economy to prevent economic crises, consulting the people directly for their needs, and organizing production on that basis."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (5-8)
"Markets are not very useful for long-term economic planning since they work by treating the accounting problem as a static issue. He was alert to the fact that prices reflect recent conditions but do not provide systematic information as to the possible effects of investment changes, of changes in technical conditions for production, and of the creation of new wants. Such shortcomings in the informative value of market prices were, in his opinion, present under capitalism as well as under socialism. Hayek never replied to these arguments."
—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

⬟ (5-9)
"It's philistine hypocrisy for Mises to claim that under socialism we cannot resolve the 'economic calculation problem' and the efficient utilization of natural resources problem, even though Soviet mathematicians developed formulas to give an inference on economic planning concerning production

needs rather than luxuries for society. Today, planning is ten times more efficient with the launch of advanced computer systems, which can monitor and deliver information based on the millions of goods purchased instead of price signals in order to produce the necessary amount of goods; just look at Amazon's tracking technology. While flawed at times due to productive forces being less advanced in the past, it still provided a better quality of life for all socialist citizens. Meanwhile, capitalism, with its tendency of anti-coordinated, ecocidaloverproduction in the name of profit, can't utilize any strand of resource efficiency, as technology is utilized not to shorten the working day or generate employment, but to extract more profit for massive trusts and cartels."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (5-10)
"In communism, you would own your food, home, bed, clothes, phone, computer, etc. You can own personal property, yet not means of production."
—Paul Kingsley, *Quora*

● (5-11)
"It's not that a fully communist society would 'ban' money. It's that it would have no use for it in the higher stage of communism: as Marx says, people would do what they could, and take what they needed. What would you do with money in those circumstances?"
—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

▼ (5-12)
"There is a reason why capitalist states move to central planning whenever there is a big war; markets are inefficient, and most importantly, they are always for profit. It does not revolve around the consumer and what they need; it revolves around what is profitable to produce and sell."
—Husseini, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (5-13)
"While we reject individualism, we don't desire for the masses to be a hive mind—quite the contrary. We just strive to purge the cutthroat aspect of individualism but keep the principle of uniqueness intact and allow it to flourish."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (5-14) ℹ

"When the working class takes control of production, it can use its knowledge to create genuinely helpful technologies regardless of profitability, it can end fossil fuel production and divert labor and other resources to ecologically-necessary spheres of the economy, and it can end the unsustainable overproduction that is linked to capitalism. Because it maximizes use-value and not profit, workers' economic planning will be able to implement the policies we need to reverse climate change. Because it relies on actual data of resource availability, it can effectively use resources without waste."

—Paul Kingsley, *Communism Or Extinction*

⬟ (5-15) ℹ

"Socialist democracy is based on workers' councils, with elected delegates representing lower councils and the masses in higher councils. The masses inform all chambers of the party through mass organizations, and they even inform the highest organ of the working people's party, the central committee, which elects the general secretary. Socialism isn't the end of democracy for the 'common good' but the rebirth of democracy now universally for the common good of the workers."

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (5-16)

"Demanding total agreement among the working class is naive. People are complicated, so they have numerous contradictions with one another, leading to contradicting schools of thought. These are not class contradictions or any other 'serious' or 'heavy' contradictions, so they are not 'bad'; they must be able to unite over larger issues of the party or the state so that the working class can do things."

—Paul Kingsley, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (5-17)

"Why do some within the proletariat hold utopian expectations that Marxism must be perfect when commenced in practice, despite it being a scientific process based on dialectical materialism? They focus on the narrow fallacies of early collectivization 'failures,' yet treat the issues of imperialism as

'natural,' refusing to analyze it as a systemic crisis wasting billions of tons of food to inflate prices and create man-made scarcity."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (5-18) ✪
"There exist giant corporations like Amazon and Walmart that in effect constitute private economies that are bigger and more complex than the economies of entire countries. These two authors stress the role that modern computer technology plays in enabling these two megacorporations to manage their private economies. And they go on to cite the more recent work of people like Paul Cockshott in stressing the importance of modern computer technology in making socialist economic planning a viable option in today's world."
—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

⬟ (5-19)
"The bourgeoisie impedes innovation via patent rights and the threat of bankruptcy due to the productive forces turning it obsolete. They seek to 'regulate' overproduction as they constrain science and technology, only developing technology when it is profitable to do so. This is why Apple won a lawsuit that let them monopolize the "slide-to-unlock" feature on smartphones, creating financial barriers for consumers to access that innovation. In socialism, innovation does not have constraints other than those imposed by Mother Nature, and the benefits are accessible to all."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (5-20)
"Marxists recognize freedom of expression. In socialist countries such as the USSR, workers and peasants had the right to hold demonstrations & criticize policies. It's just that our conception of these rights is different from liberals, in that we are more truthful about it.

"Contrary to liberals, Marxists recognize that freedom of speech and the right to assembly have a *class character*, and how they are implemented depends on the prevailing social order. In capitalism, freedom of speech and especially freedom of the press are monopolized and regulated by the capitalist class. Capitalists, enabled by their vast wealth and control of the state, use the media to freely disseminate their ideology. Meanwhile,

dissenting views – especially socialist ones – are restricted or even suppressed. Freedom of speech and press under capitalism principally means freedom of speech and press for the capitalists.

"Similarly, assemblies acting in the interests of the ruling class are completely unrestricted. Meanwhile, assemblies against the interests of the ruling class are restricted or even suppressed. Bourgeois-democratic constitutions usually proclaim how these rights are universal for everyone. Of course, this doesn't correspond to reality since it never manifests in practice. If it did, the capitalist class would be working against its interests.

"In socialism, freedom of speech is guaranteed for the proletariat. Media promoting capitalist restoration or fascism will be suppressed, since it infringes on the class interests of the majority. Similarly, workers are allowed to hold assemblies expressing their concerns and dissatisfaction. Reactionaries, however, won't be allowed to use this to instigate unrest or call for capitalist restoration.

"Bourgeois democracy represents a democracy for the rich, for the capitalist class. Proletarian democracy represents a democracy for the workers, who use the state to uphold socialism and suppress the capitalists."
—M., *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (5-21)
"People familiar with the rule of the working class and with the mass line should not be surprised by our opposition to 'total free speech'. Such a policy does not exist, not even in the most 'libertarian' of the bourgeoisie 'democratic republics'; all class societies have restrictions on speech, particularly on the speech that threatens the existing relations of production, either legally or de facto by other mechanisms (reducing such speech's audience size, increasing the price of 'free speech' in various ways, 'shadow banning', and more). The bourgeoisie only supports free speech for those who spread propaganda favoring it, so when it takes power, the proletariat should do the same."
—Paul Kingsley, *Free Speech For The Working Class*

⬟ (5-22)

"The difference between bourgeois right and 'socialist' bureaucratic privilege is rooted in the principle of 'to each according to their responsibility' according to the amount of labor expended. A component of bourgeois right, that 'more work = more pay,' is ironically necessary as long as society is socialist and not ready for full communism. In contrast, bureaucratic privileges must be denounced and avoided since they equate wages with ranking, determining salary based on promotion or demotion—as is done in capitalist firms—rather than labor. It waters the tree of rightism, eroding party democracy with individualistic incentives in the communist parties. When a communist party promotes someone, the promoted should earn it for their service to the people, and they should not expect higher pay unless their workload increases."

—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

6—Socialism in History

Celebrating victories, building from mistakes, and dispelling myths

▼ (6-1)

"Marx's true claim to fame was the Paris Commune of 1871, which was the first time in history his theories were put into practice. The Communards didn't just emancipate the Parisian workers politically, but more importantly, economically.

"Women no longer depended on men for an income; bakers were no longer forced to work night shifts; Commune representatives were paid the same wages as workers; violence was no longer monopolized by a state that oppressed workers, but distributed to the workers by having everyone be armed; and so on. All of this shocked the upper classes of Europe, who wasted no effort to depict the Communards as immoral beasts through their media mouthpieces."

—Danny Wong, *Quora*

● (6-2)

"Stalin led the Soviet people out of feudalism and capitalism. Under his leadership, life in the USSR drastically improved for the vast majority of the people; healthcare, education, employment, and more were guaranteed for working people, and people could improve their standing by working to get better pay, for the socialist system rewarded people according to their contributions. The USSR industrialized in 10 years to a level that capitalist countries took 50–100 years to reach, and without the colonization, genocide, and exploitation that capitalists needed. This development of heavy industry allowed the USSR to defend the rights of independent bourgeois states against Nazi aggression, and when the Nazis launched Operation Barbarossa, the Soviet people waged a glorious war for the defense of their state and motherland."

—Paul Kingsley, *Happy 144th Birthday to Comrade Stalin!*

● (6-3)

"All the delegates in the Soviets were proposed as candidates by the people and voted in by the people. They were proposed by the communist party as

well as mass organizations such as trade unions, collective farm associations, students' unions, academic associations, and women's associations."
—M., *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (6-4)
"My great-grandmother was a nurse in World War II. That was the most women could do back then, especially black women. Unless you were in the USSR, in which you could snipe 400 Nazis."
—F.M.M., *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (6-5)
"I remember the taste of Soviet products for all of my life since childhood. Products sold out on the same day, and therefore were always fresh and healthy. There were no fat people at all; everyone was beautifully lean at any age. Hard-working Soviet pensioners worked until old age in the garden and/or in the country, they grew fresh berries and fruits for their families and grandchildren.

"We knew that in capitalist countries, products were thrown into the trash. This was not the case in the USSR. Our parents remembered the Siege of Leningrad in WWII and never threw away bread. They dried croutons, and in the summer, they made kvass from black crusts—simple and tasty."
—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

▼ (6-6)
"Everyone knew at the time who the kulaks were. Like we all know, these days, who the drug pushers really are. If drug dealers are miraculously eliminated this year, perhaps in a century our descendants will tell all sorts of romantic crap stories about those sublime and generous private entrepreneurs who acted so selflessly for the benefit of society. But not now, no."
—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

▼ (6-7) ℹ
"If Stalin had killed 60 million people, a big chunk of those would have been in the collectivization famine of 1930–32 and the year of the Terror, 1937–38. But you don't see a population drop in those years, much less a

drop of, say, 40 million people. That would have reduced the 1939 figure to *20 million below 1925 levels*. You can't, as it were, bury figures of that magnitude. The population increased at a normal rate from 1937 to 1941. The big increase in those years is due to the annexation of Eastern Poland and the Baltic states.

"There was a huge population drop between 1941 and 1946, about 27 million people. That corresponds to the havoc *somebody* wreaked in the Soviet Union, killing 27 million people, but it wasn't the Soviets who did it."
—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

● (6-8) ✪i
"The population of Ukraine in 1930 was 30 million and 652 thousand people. Now pay attention! After the famine, that is, in 1933, the population of Ukraine was 33 million and 157 thousand people. The population during the famine in Ukraine grew. Yes, the population grew less than expected, but not to the point of absurd numbers of people dying.

"Did the Soviet government continue to sell grain abroad during the famine? Hmm. Wheat exports from the USSR: in 1930—2.5 million tons, 1931—2.5 million tons, 1932—550 thousand tons, 1933—748 thousand tons. We are seeing a sharp decline in wheat supplies abroad. The USSR actively purchased food abroad during the Holodomor. Including tens of thousands of heads of cattle, bread. They bought from Turkey and Persia."
—Svetlana Cheraksova, *Quora*

⬟ (6-9)
"The most accurate part is where Solzhenitsyn talks of his personal experience. He is treated politely (most of the time), has bread and bunk, and warm clothes. He is not forced into hard physical labor; he reads books and has plenty of time to chat, ramble, gossip, and spew out all his hatred for Stalin. He plays chess, attends theatrical performances, listens to the radio, and reads newspapers. No one ever beat or tortured him. Nothing even remotely resembling the Auschwitz concentration camp experience."
—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

⬟ (6-10)

"Purges actually strengthened the Red Army, but this is a long discussion. It was not only Stalin, by far not. One man could not physically carry out the whole big thing. It was much easier for the Red Army to purge Stalin, rather than the other way around.

"The Red Army purged itself—they had different groups, cliques, clans, and factions that feuded with each other from the times of the Civil War (1918–22). Nearly half of Imperial Russia's generals and officers served in the Red Army."

—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

▼ (6-11) ℹ

"The Great Purge, a removal of corrupt officers and enemies from the government, had a death toll of around 700 thousand people, primarily because of the secret police's free reign (which only ended when Stalin found out about it and got Nikolai Yezhov, the commander of the secret police, executed).

"Unfortunately, this type of opportunism is a natural product of the struggle between the proletarian and bourgeois lines in the historical phase of socialism, both in the USSR and everywhere. The GULAG, the labor camp system of the USSR, was used to punish criminals and had a death toll of 1–1.7 million people, mostly from inmates dying during the destruction of WW2 and the Nazi genocides.

"The punitive measures in the USSR were meant to fight crime and bring justice; no such intentions existed in the Nazis', Americans', British, etc. mass murders and genocides of indigenous ethnic groups. It is unscientific to believe that we can have a society in which everyone can thrive. There will always be bad people who attempt to undermine the interests of the majority, and they must be dealt with if socialism is to survive."

—Paul Kingsley, *Did Communism Really Kill 100 Million People?*

⬟ (6-12)

"In the Soviet Union, the economics profession was divided into two branches: the political economists and the mathematical economists, with the great majority of Soviet economists being political economists. The

political economists were trained mostly in the work of Marx & Engels, Lenin, and their successors. Most of them did not have much mathematical training, and their published research made little use of mathematics. The mathematical economists, on the other hand, were trained very proficiently in higher mathematics, and their work was very technical."
—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

▼ (6-13)
"The Soviet workers and peasants were not afraid of losing a job or of not being able to find another one, so they had much freedom of dealing with their immediate supervisors (managers), from a foreman up to a plant director or chairperson of a collective farm. They were well protected and were not afraid at all to argue with the bosses, either directly face to face or most of the time at regular meetings."
—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

● (6-14) ✪
"As explained before, China's economy exploded in the 1950s; it experienced downturns in the early-1960s in the Great Leap Forward and the late-1960s in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, but its growth in the mid-1960s and the 1970s (during the Cultural Revolution, that is) was so great that it negated the downturns.

"China greatly raised its literacy rate, life expectancy, and quality of life. It was able to begin rapid industrial development, a massive literacy and education campaign, voluntary family planning initiatives, cultural advancement, women's liberation, and more. It was the most advanced society with the greatest levels of democracy and freedom as long as Mao was alive. The people were in control of their workplaces and their own lives."
—Paul Kingsley, *Socialist China's Successes*

⬟ (6-15)
"Collectivization involved developing the existing peasant cooperatives into people's communes, which had 'all-round management of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fishery, where industry (the worker), agriculture (the peasant), exchange (the trader), culture and education (the student) and military affairs (the militiaman) merge into one'.

Cooperatives, in turn, had their own different stages of development. After land reform and the relatively equal distribution of land to private holdings, mutual aid teams formed; following them, elementary and then advanced cooperatives came about from merging these teams. In the teams and elementary co-ops, peasants who contributed more means of production (capital) got paid more, but in advanced co-ops and later people's communes, goods were distributed according to work contributions."
—Paul Kingsley, *Manifesto of the ACP(M)*

⬟ (6-16)
"State-funded healthcare, available to all employees of the workers' state (commune members were not that, for they were employed by communes, i.e., cooperatives), also existed, with its funds coming from state enterprises' 'profits'. Workers, too, enjoyed a tax-free healthcare system, and they paid small fees as well.

"Arguably as important as the source of funding is how doctors were employed throughout the country. Specifically, doctors were not shifted to highly profitable areas, but to areas with the greatest need for medical care and the places with the working people who built China up. This system is what capitalism literally cannot have, for capitalism is based on the maximization of profit and not the maximization of use-value; all capitalist systems, including state-capitalist ones, suffer from that fundamental contradiction in capitalism, even if they regulate it in some way or another. In contrast, socialist China lacked that problem, for people were paid according to the quantity and quality of the work they did, and enterprises' production was based on actual material values and not money as in capitalism. In the countryside, there were barefoot doctors. These were paramedics readily available to provide basic medical care; above them were hospitals owned and funded by the communes. Since most of China was still agricultural, this prioritization of the countryside was important. Thanks to China's allocation of resources, peasants—the backbone of China—got the medical care they needed."
—Paul Kingsley, *Quora*

⬟ (6-17) ℹ

“In 1958, the Communist Party of China established the people’s communes: combined villages made from the advanced socialist co-ops to promote unity for socialist construction. Elementary co-ops in 1950 were bourgeois, based on investments of tools and draft animals from Mutual Aid Teams who shared tools and draft animals for developing productive forces, aiming to improve land quality for profit. In village collectives, where people’s manual labor was appreciated, and paid according to responsibility, they were plunged out with the abolition of bureaucratic privileges and ‘egalitarian’ pay. The ’three levels of ownership’ were implemented: work-teams - multiple families managing work production and wages, brigades - containing multiple work teams managing a large-scale village project, and the commune, which managed larger-scale projects across multiple villages working communally to boost production levels.

“They strived for nutritional post-scarcity, as they gave their surpluses to the workers’ government while being able to sustain adequate nutrition. It was a coordinated effort where trucks, tractors, multiple machinery, and their crops were shared to help the poorer villages, the urban factories, and the people’s army. All were subsidised by state aid. Later measures mandated allocation of surplus towards reinvesting in the productive forces for agriculture, which led to mass improvement in the long term despite treachery from revisionists. Even during those rocky years like 1958-62 or the late ‘60s, they showed the collective will to shape a prosperous future.”
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (6-18) ℹ

“China had a famine during its Great Leap Forward, an ambitious plan of rapid industrialization and socialist transition. The program had benefits and drawbacks, and it even had a major famine, but anti-communists overreacted to its failures. … Scholars have not agreed on the actual death toll of this program, but many more are starting to find lower death tolls as more information is uncovered and the old anti-communist propaganda machine weakens. In ‘Sun Jingxian and the Myth of Mass Genocide. The Last Word?’, the author states, ‘new research in China seems to have finally demolished the myth that tens of millions died due to the actions of Mao in

the Great Leap Forward … the article presents evidence for a figure of 3.66 million deaths due to famine.'"

—Paul Kingsley, *Did Communism Really Kill 100 Million People?*

● (6-19)

"While capitalists often waste the products they manufacture for sale when they have too many of them to sell "profitably" (let alone the waste materials produced in manufacturing itself!), socialist China found ways to reuse waste materials so that each second of labor time, each gram of raw material, and each yuan invested produced a lot of useful product and did not go 'down the drain!'"

—Paul Kingsley, *Quora*

⬟ (6-20)

"There were mistakes in the Cultural Revolution because it was the first of its kind. Mao, for instance, rehabilitated Deng Xiaoping because he assumed Deng's self-criticism was legitimate and not a cover, and the CPC over-corrected for the Red Guards' mistakes by considerably empowering the military, which had its rightist leanings."

—Paul Kingsley, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (6-21)

"The Chinese government, both in its socialist era and in its modern capitalist one, repressed reactionary sects like Salafism and certain reactionary Sufi movements, but supported the development of Islam in China. It bankrolled the construction and development of Islamic educational institutions and tried to intervene in the inter-sect conflict, acting as a mediating voice while also not dictating Islamic theology."

—Husseini, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (6-22) ℹ

"Look at Burkina Faso. Under progressive president Thomas Sankara, the government was able to vaccinate a majority of the children, move people out of slums, and plant millions of trees throughout the nation. After its return to capitalism, the African nation had undergone constant war and famine. 60% of the population lived in absolute poverty, and the literacy rate was one of the lowest in the world."

—Robby LaBurne, *Response To Jordan Peterson's Critique Of The Communist Manifesto*

▼ (6-23)

"In 1968, Filipino communists, led by Sison, gained inspiration from their Chinese and Indian comrades and formed a new Communist Party of the Philippines (the old one, formed in the 1930s, had gone revisionist and electoralist) in the First Great Rectification. The movement corrected the errors of the reformist revisionists of the old party, and it created a genuine workers' party. A year later, the communists began their insurgency with just 60 revolutionaries who were part of the New People's Army (the army that the communist party leads, the NPA). When the fascist Ferdinand Marcos tried to suppress the rebellion through enacting martial law starting in 1972, the people's war grew in size and popularity."

—Paul Kingsley, *Victory to the People of the Philippines!*

⬟ (6-24)

"Deviations occurred because Marxist-Leninists of the past were not wary enough of those around them and because they unintentionally created the conditions for the revisionists to rise in power. In the USSR, because the mass line method was not used in leadership, Khrushchev took power quite easily without much opposition. And Khrushchev only became a capitalist-roader because he acquired bureaucratic privileges that incentivized him to take the USSR on a rightist path. Deng had a similar situation, but because bureaucratic privileges were banned in China during the Cultural Revolution and because the mass line was used much more (and since the masses supervised the Communist Party and the government), Deng could not take power until after Mao died and his successor, Hua Guofeng, arrested thousands of genuine revolutionaries."

—Paul Kingsley, *Against Revisionism and Ultra-Leftism*

▼ (6-25)

"I have found that the best way to understand a people's history is to simply talk to them. Just engage in conversation with Tibetans in Tibet and those abroad. Dig into their family history about the whole serfdom business. I assure you that the vast, vast majority of Tibetans abroad are descended from the upper echelons of Tibetan society, i.e., the slave-owning clergy castes.

“You will find the same story around the world, another classical example being Cuban-Americans vs Cubans in Cuba. From this point forward, it is up to you to decide whether ‘gubment took mah slaves’ is a valid reason to hate on said ‘gubment.’”
—Danny Wong, *Quora*

● (6-26) ✪
“In general, Western audiences naively believe in that childish crap about this or that dictator (always Communist dictator, of course—never Pinochet or Franco) ‘had paranoia and ordered mass killings’. A single person murdering millions of people. In reality (it's another topic to discuss), there's a limit to repression, which I estimate at 5% maximum, which any given ‘Hitler’ may allow to ‘waste.’ Talking of their own population. Otherwise, that dictator would be quickly done with—usually by his initial supporters. Human beings are not robots, zombies, or full idiots—they would quickly figure out what's going on, and that they are next in line.”
—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

7—Organization and Praxis

The only proven way to socialism

▼ (7-1) ✪

“The revolution never fails to make my heart beat loudly and my stomach sink in quiet anticipation. My time with the revolution has been, I admit, a small part: I have only ever distributed leaflets and participated in educational discussions — never hosted one, nor designed a leaflet. But still, I feel my part in the struggle, and the simple feeling of political activism against the backdrop of growing capitalist-caused problems is enough to make me feel whole.

“My circle of comrades is spirited and lively. We take joy in helping each other. The revolution here in the cities is as exciting as the People's War in the countryside. And though I never wish to fire an arm, except in dire circumstances or in the slim chance that I would face a fascist and be given the choice to put him out of his misery, I know my part, and I know my pen will do much for the revolution.

“‘Forward the People's War,' I tell myself, constantly. I have had my doubts, but never for long. I once joked that the only thing I was waiting for was the world revolution. I have hope that it will come soon. But for now, I focus on one thing, and one thing alone: the liberation of my motherland and its peoples from the greedy shit-eating parasites we call the bourgeoisie.

“My nation is proud and strong: my ancestors have never died for naught. And though the struggle may outlive me by another hundred years, a single comrade is enough to punch a pig in the face and work miracles for the People's Trident. That is why I urge all my countrymen and even those who live outside of the Philippines to forward the people’s cause. The revolution begins with him, her, me, and you.”

—Comrade Justine: Filipino Communist Organizer, Original Quote

● (7-2)

“Communists and advanced workers must work in existing mass organizations and form new ones for all segments of the people, namely

anti-imperialist groups, unions, factory/workplace organizations, workers' parties, women's associations, cooperatives, students' groups, oppressed nations' revolutionary advocacy groups, environmentalist organizations, indigenous nations' organs of power, progressive queer groups, religious mass organizations, anti-racist and anti-fascist groups, and mutual aid teams."
—Paul Kingsley, *What Should We Do?*

● (7-3)
"Without the centralized power of the party, protection of the people's army, and mass integration of the united front, communists are left open to internal sabotage, external violence, and eventual disconnect from the revolutionary tide of society."
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

● (7-4)
"It has been tradition in the communist movement since the times of Marx to operate openly."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *The Cuban Dilemma*

● (7-5) ✪
"As long as you're born a human, your voice deserves a podium to be heard, not because you should develop a certain level of intelligence or even developmental maturity, but because you're a person with rights to voice your concerns to the world, even if just heard or considered. As communists, we should listen to and guide each other in class unity, not dismiss and take advantage of a comrade due to traits they can't regulate like their race, sex, ability, or age; this is simply listening to the masses with humility. Is that insanity when put in perspective?"
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (7-6)
"As a former member of an anti-imperialist group, I can tell you one thing: most communication online is about meetings. Information should be passed in person. Online, federal agents wouldn't even care for a warrant to snoop into communist meetings. You just have to be careful about who you let in.

"In a professional party, a vetting system would be required. Revolutionaries would have to be checked a lot to make sure there's no big gaps in their theory or credentials, possibly through lie detector tests."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *Serious Discussions Channel*

▼ (7-7)
"We must delay the savage offensive of the bourgeois hydraulic press flattening our mass organized protests, while assembling communist organizations that'll dismantle the terrorizing machine. For concessions are only a first aid kit, not the revolutionary cure, which only the ambulance of organization could deliver to us."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (7-8)
"The masses are capable of organizing themselves for their own gain, yes, yet do you believe that these 'gains' will not be distorted or thrown out by the bourgeoisie? The communist party is the only one that can develop spontaneity into consciousness. But to do that, they must actively participate in the daily life struggle of the proletariat to protect the immediate gains, and show the workers who are their enemies and friends. You can't make a political program if you don't actively participate in the struggle.
—Manitou, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (7-9)
"Concessions from the state are victories when won through the hard work of organized action, and depressants when handed out for free to silence revolutionary demands. As we celebrate socialist strikes having invented the concept of a weekend, we condemn the welfare states funded by imperialist plunder in the third world."
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

● (7-10)
"Your greatest vulnerability is false relationships. Social engineering is orders of magnitude more effective than any other 'hack' or 'security exploit.'"
—J.A. Sterling, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (7-11) ✪

"We don't mastermind and plot and scheme. We go to the masses, see their ideas, understand their frustrations, and organize accordingly. If one neighborhood has a gang issue, then we organize a people's militia for self-defense against said gang. If an apartment complex has issues with a certain landlord, we organize and start rent strikes. If we have the people, even when we do get broken up, we have won over their trust. People are going to feel safer knowing that communists are willing to throw down and be there when things get bad."

—F.M.M., *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

▼ (7-12)

"Propaganda is nothing more than a political tool. Like most things in the world, it possesses a duality. Propaganda can be used to mobilize the masses to struggle against systems of oppression. It can also be used to silence the masses as a tool to uphold these oppressive systems."

—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

▼ (7-13)

"We cannot use the same tactics that capitalists use to brainwash people. If people want to be communists, they must do it on their own. It cannot be forced in every aspect of information. The masses will see that they only have full control in communism.

—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

▼ (7-14)

"Everything starts with points of unity. There's always common ground of some sort with other principled Marxists. And once you've established points of unity, you have to practice struggling together so that you can fight external enemies together, despite ideological differences, without falling to wreckers."

—J.A. Sterling, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (7-15)

"Huey Newton in particular wanted special attention to be paid to the lumpenproletariat, that class that sits below the proletariat that gets their money from illegal means, such as drugs, gun running, and other criminal

activities. They exist in contrast to the lumpenbourgeoisie, who are the leaders of these groups, such as gangs, cartels, and human trafficking rings. A majority of the time, individuals enter into these groups as they tend not to have many other options when it comes to seeking gainful employment, as he worked during a time when mostly white high-paying jobs were not too keen on hiring black citizens to work in their firms. As such, the members of these organizations, if reached out to, could coalesce into the wider movement as these individuals had nothing to lose and everything to gain."
—F.M.M., *Address to the Black Masses*

⬟ (7-16)

"Here's how you would use mass line:

1. Gather the diverse ideas of the masses, even if from the immature, ignorant, and backward strata of the proletariat
2. Process or concentrate these ideas from the perspective of revolutionary Marxism, in light of the long-term interests of the masses and a scientific analysis of the objective situation.
3. Return these concentrated ideas to the masses to discuss and implement in the form of a political line, which will advance the mass struggle towards revolution."

—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *Quora*

⬤ (7-17) ✪

"Mobilization is not organization. It is neither positive nor negative—choose the correct tools for the correct situations, do not confuse one tool for another. And you always need to consider the landscape: cost/risk, numbers, timing, etc… In the USA, why did the WTO protests, Occupy, and the George Floyd Uprising go nowhere? Same question: what organizational structures were built ahead of those three events and integrated with those three events? None."
—J.A. Sterling, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

▼ (7-18)

"Do you think Lenin wrote 500 pages of private letters arguing with Trotsky? No. He went about building a party, educating and agitating. When he did polemicize with Trotsky, he wrote public articles in newspapers

which could be read by thousands of people, and are read by thousands even today. He did it to educate others."
—M., *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (7-19)
"It's important to distinguish between the one who made a mistake and the reactionary, to look at both their mistakes and their achievements. Both left and right deviationists ignore this and fail to evaluate anything or anyone. They will try to inflate or omit the person's mistakes or achievements and label him as anything they want."
—Manitou, *Original Quote*

⬟ (7-20) ✪
"Spontaneous consciousness is but a stepping stone to class consciousness. Though we commemorate the heroism of people such as Gavrilo Princip, even 1,000 adventurists like him won't provide a material solution. When a high-ranking CEO or reactionary official is eliminated, their replacement will simply reproduce the systemic nightmare while imprisoning a martyr. However, it only takes 100 professional revolutionaries leading the masses to give birth to a revolutionary movement, as with the advent of the USSR."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (7-21)
"I live in a repressive country, and my internet usage has never affected anything because I don't openly talk about what organizations I'm a member of, or disclose anything about any organization on the internet.

Just use Signal for organising real-life stuff when you can't do it in person. Also, I can tell you from personal experience that actual leaders of communist parties engaged in people's war are not complete shut-ins who don't use the internet. Don't scare yourself about this, just have basic decorum for using the web safely, and don't openly talk about how you're planning anything on non-encrypted communication."
—Husseini, 'Ask A Maoist' Hotline

Image by Comrade Justine

⬟ (7-22)

"We will not actively expend energy attacking organizations with opportunistic ideologies. That is, we will not engage in physical fights with most of them, for they are merely appendages of the entire capitalist-imperialist system. Attacking them instead of winning them over is adventurist and ultra-leftist" in its own way, and it only scares the masses. The only time such conflicts are necessary is when opportunists, often coming from the bourgeoisie or its hired agents, actively cooperate with the state in oppressing the people and sabotaging the development of proletarian dictatorship; in those instances, force and authority are needed. That is why we do not attack anarchists in Antifa, but conflict is inevitable with anarchists who disrupt our mass work. We do not attack CPUSA cadres, but we do condemn their revisionist leadership."

—Paul Kingsley, *Left Unity?*

⬟ (7-23)

"How do you expect millions of people to serve in a revolutionary army without some kind of compensation, including a certain amount of monetary remuneration? They need to feed their families, feed themselves, they need land to farm, and a place to live. They're joining the army to fight for a better life, for the whole society, *including themselves*. Soldiers in the Russian and Chinese armies were all compensated in some way. If they weren't, they never would have fought."

—M., *Serious Discussions Channel*

⬟ (7-24)

"At the same time, we need security when it comes to allowing people into organizations. Mass organizations have the fewest restrictions for entry, with their bars being dependent on their rules. The people's army has more bars, with ideological and physical testing needed to determine whether people should be let in, among other things. And of course, the Communist Party needs the highest bar of the three weapons, for it consists of the vanguard of the proletariat, i.e., the very best fighters of our working class. This is one key reason the proletariat's party is democratic and centralist: by imposing the proletarian line on the minority, bourgeois line, the party protects its unity and considerably reduces the influence of bourgeois infiltrators."

—Paul Kingsley, *What Should We Do?*

⬟ (7-25)

"The echoes of pacifist solutions are optimistic, yet in the real world, they don't hold any water. They yearn for socialism in upcoming elections or the color revolutions, which are inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, with peaceful marches and passionate speeches to the masses, hoping that the bourgeoisie will "respect" the outcomes of their democratic republics and cede power to the proletariat.

"Yet the material reality of class struggle will lead the bureaucratic-military apparatus of the bourgeois dictatorship to resist socialism through funding fascist paramilitaries or parties, using their armed forces to overthrow democratically elected socialist governments like those of Salvador Allende or Jacobo Arbenz, or utilizing imperialist capital to help set the stage for a coup from the ousted ruling class elements in the nation. The proletarian

revolution helps solidify control over the nation, for a decaying structure of a house is unsafe and bound to fall from its contradictions. Only new reconstruction, not minor maintenance, based on the revolutionary blueprint, can build a new, socialist society."
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

⬟ (7-26) ✪
"Peaceful activism can be a powerful tool of the proletariat, for it involves wide sections of the masses in liberating themselves. The problem, however, is when it becomes the *only* form of organized struggle against the class enemy. A critical understanding of the state—not as a 'collective decision-making institution' but as, per Max Weber, a 'monopoly on violence'—leads to a clearer prediction of how it will react to any threats to the social order.

"Ask Oscar Romero, Sukarno, Lumumba, Allende, Arbenz, Mossadegh, Gaddafi, Nkrumah, Sankara, Goulart, or Aristide what happens when you try to pacifistically address violent injustice. Beyond 'male political leaders', ask the same question to Fuminyalo Ransome-Kuti, a Nigerian women's rights activist, or Berta Caceres, a Honduran indigenous organizer, both of whom were extrajudicially assassinated by neocolonial regimes.

"The question under capitalism, especially in the global south, is not whether there will be bloodshed. It is whether imperialist death squads, paramilitaries, and armed-to-the-teeth police can enforce it without resistance."
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

▼ (7-27)
"Struggling with a 'pig' or fascist isn't necessarily all that practice is. Practice is also the act of a revolutionary's conduct and reading theory and literature, since practice and theory are mixed and intertwined.

"In the Philippines, revolutionary conduct is often the way you behave yourself in the activists' quarters: doing chores, et al. Similarly, in the countryside, you do chores, but also train to struggle. Revolutionary conduct is based on the idea that to convince the masses, one would have to conduct oneself properly or follow the standards of the party. So in approaching a

major ‘asshole’ like a Mises-infatuated economics student, we would have to be restrained and deny all provocations into debate. Since, to quote the great Lenin, ‘why should we bother to reply to Kautsky? He would reply to us, and we would have to reply to his reply.’

“Endless debate is usually how we satiate the conditions of being an armchair revolutionary and devalue ourselves into doing nothing whatsoever for the revolution. Instead, when applying Maoist theory into practice, we think generally. The mass line calls for an organization for the masses, from the masses, so, then, our goal as revolutionaries would then be to propagate our ideas into the masses’ sphere of thinking, in hopes that we would enlighten another soul to the necessity and beauty of revolution.

“Since theory is inseparable from practice, what words the great teachers and leaders of past communist nations have left us, we utilize but not dogmatically nor adventuristically. From where theory demands, we analyze the source and think rationally as Marxists, how to best follow and use that information to serve the struggle and the people. That is a tenet of utilizing knowledge and applying it to practice. Criticism and self-criticism are important as well, since they are the most memorable aspects of Maoist thinking. In application, it would mean criticism of oneself for the things one would not pin blame or wrongdoing upon. This means if you are wrong and you do not see it, it is your task to steer your sails into self-reflection.
—Comrade Justine, Original Quote

● (7-28) ✪
“The construction of a vanguard party is very urgent, for the laboring classes are restrained in shackles, and need the support of professional revolutionary chain-breakers. Why so? You need a teacher to educate students, you need a sports coach to train athletes, you need a parent to guide the youth, you need management to train new workers, and in a mentor for life in general, so why do anarchists and left-’communists’ believe in the liquidation of a vanguard party that educates and trains the masses for inevitable revolution? Theirs are the strategies of petty-bourgeois opportunists who want to bottle our anger within divided, disorganized formations and undisciplined ‘preparation.’”
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (7-29)

"'Reconstitution' is a term for anti-revisionists who seek to overhaul a revisionist party; the U.S. had the Committee to Reconstitute the CPUSA, and despite its problems, the goal was correct. Similarly, the PCP underwent the same process, where Gonzalo's proletarian group *reconstituted* the existing party that had been taken over by the bourgeoisie. However, there's no need to reconstitute a party that's made up of proletarian members and leaders. A proletarian party must change to fix their material conditions, but that does not mean it has to be 'rebuilt up again from parts' if it has not been infiltrated yet by the bourgeoisie.

—Paul Kingsley, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

▼ (7-30)

"Nothing is inevitable. That is why I mention the fascist vanguard. If we don't organize, agitate, and educate, they will."

—J.A. Sterling, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

8—Revisionism

The antithesis to revolutionary organization

● (8-1)

"And that is since the emergence of mass political participation since the French Revolution right-wingers have come to realize that to remain politically viable they must be able to craft appeals to the masses, even if such appeals involve using somewhat deceptive rhetoric in which right-wing ideas are made more appealing by being expressed in left-sounding terms."

—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

● (8-2) ✪

"Erroneous and revisionist ideas stem from a lack of social practice and theoretical engagement. Only in rare instances do they signify moral or personal failings, permanently alienating them from the proletarian cause. If someone with these ideas genuinely seeks to serve the masses, they should be corrected and educated in a firm but comradely manner. But if it is clear that they are seeking only to cause trouble, ignore them and/or take necessary measures of separation."

—Robby LaBurne, *Original Quote*

⬟ (8-3) ✪

"The replacement of socialist states with revisionist ones in Eastern Europe and Asia resulted in the weakening of workers' political power globally, and that meant capitalists could pressure their governments into ending the concessions offered to labor, resulting in what is now called neoliberalism. Thanks to the bourgeoisie's destruction of socialism and the resulting reduction of workers' involvement in trade unions and political struggle, capitalists and their feudal allies the world over gutted any programs they had for cheap healthcare, higher education, and more."

—Paul Kingsley, *Free Speech For The Working Class*

● (8-4)

"We prioritize politics in command—meaning we must put revolutionary politics in charge of production—instead of engaging in the revisionist plan

of the 'protracted NEP.' Such a capitalist policy becomes a reactionary position once capitalism has become the primary mode of production agriculturally and industrially."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (8-5)
"Incorrect ideas are ten times more dangerous to a progressive movement than riot batons, plywood, and fireworks."
—Robby LaBurne, *Response To Jordan Peterson's Critique of the Communist Manifesto*

● (8-6)
"Making a career of trying to maintain a broad audience that pays your salary doesn't lend you to being good politically."
—Husseini, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (8-7) ✪
"Revisionism is primarily tailism, in that it does not seek an evolution of the Marxist science. Unlike the work of great synthesizers like Marx and Stalin, or the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement in the 80s, it blatantly attempts to devolve any sort of political analysis of class struggle and the role of dialectical materialism. It usually rejects class struggle, reverting socialism to its utopian roots, with no aim of capitalist dissolution.

"Take Khrushchev's doctrine about 'state of whole people' or 'party of the whole people', which dilutes any evident necessity for proletarian dictatorship since class struggle is resolved with the 'triumph' of the proletariat. This form of thinking is dangerous as it crouches behind some revolutionary phrase-mongering, slogans, and red banners, deceptive to the masses. It evaporates socialist principles, replacing them with rightist deviations."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (8-8)
"Khrushchev was also very hypocritical regarding 'democracy' and 'dictatorship'. After he delivered his 'secret speech' condemning Stalin, Georgian anti-revisionist workers, students, and party officials protested against his rightist deviations. What did Khrushchev do? He suppressed them with military force, killing hundreds. Western bourgeois media does

not want people to know that Marxism-Leninism and genuine socialism were popular among workers, so it hides this event, but even basic research shows just how terrible the revisionists were to the Georgian people."
—Paul Kingsley, *Manifesto of the ACP(M)*

▼ (8-9)
"Mao's death marked the end of the Cultural Revolution, and after that came the capitalist reforms, which helped make China the powerhouse it is today. With capitalism came prosperity, but also severe inequality, and many of the once condemned traditional practices have been creeping back as a result. Including posthumous marriages.

"In 2004, a 14-year-old Shanxi schoolgirl named Li Tingting went missing. When she was finally found, she was hundreds of miles from home, rotting in a grave and wearing a red wedding dress. Upon investigation, it was found that she was murdered and sold to a family looking for a "corpse bride", for a lousy 20,000 Yuan (about 3,000 USD)."
—Danny Wong, Quora

⬟ (8-10) ✪
"Deng and the other revisionist 'Marxists' in China defended all of this with the revisionist 'theory of productive forces'. This supposed "theory" was invented by Liu Shaoqi in the 1960s, and it claimed that socialism *requires* highly developed productive forces and cannot develop the productive forces so fast without capitalist development preceding it.

"The first claim was not very wrong; Marxists know that at least limited capitalist development is needed before socialism. However, the 'theory of productive forces' takes this further, saying that complete capitalist development is absolutely needed for socialism to succeed. This goes along with the second point of the 'theory'. They are wrong; socialism, when applied at the right time, can develop the productive forces much faster than capitalism, especially since more surplus product can be diverted to investments in technology and equipment. In the socialist era, the productive forces expanded at a rapid pace; the GDP increased at a rate of 10% per year, on average, even though GDP is not a good measure of a socialist country's economic development.

“But Deng Xiaoping and his allies did not care. They were only interested in capitalist development, after all. The bankruptcy of their ‘theory of productive forces’ was exposed in the Cultural Revolution. As they upheld economist notions, the left line kept politics in command.”
—Paul Kingsley, *Manifesto Of The ACP(M)*

⬟ (8-11)
“The Soviet NEP was nothing more than a short-term, temporary policy to reconstruct the economy, and, most importantly, provide the basis for socialist construction in the town and countryside, to be abolished as soon as it was no longer needed. It wasn’t socialism, but a transitional state-capitalist policy towards a socialist planned economy, which is why it is completely mistaken to equate it with socialism. China’s economy is not equivalent to the Soviet Union’s transitional NEP.

“Even if Dengists grant that the NEP isn’t socialism itself, China’s market economy, supposedly akin to the NEP, isn’t anywhere close to transitional; it’s quite permanent and has been in place for decades. The NEP facilitated the growth of private trade and enterprise in a controlled manner, intending to work towards socialism, making private enterprise secondary to socialist industry. It didn’t proliferate private property or privatize socially-owned enterprises en masse, like modern China does. It hasn’t worked towards socialism; it has moved away from it.

“The Chinese state doesn’t even consider itself to be in any kind of transitional period. Indeed, it says in its constitution that the country is already in the ‘primary stage of socialism.’ Its market economy is envisaged as the country’s particular form of socialism (‘Socialism With Chinese Characteristics’), a quite permanent arrangement.”
—M., *‘Ask A Maoist’ Hotline*

⬤ (8-12) ℹ
“Many people in the CPC central committee are CEO's and such. A good example would be the big four banks in China (ICBC, CCB, the Agricultural Bank of China, and the Bank of China), all of whose leaders have senior rankings in the CPC hierarchy. Furthermore, 1/5 of private industrialists are CPC members, and 2/3s of red investors are now on the Forbes list.”
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *How China Is Not A Dictatorship Of The Proletariat*

⬟ (8-13)

"Before capitalist restoration, most bourgeois-oriented bureaucrats weren't capitalists per se; the best you can call them is 'capitalist elements', or more broadly 'capitalist-minded.' What I mean by this is they do have the view of a capitalist in many ways; they can, in a microcosm, do spontaneous exploitation if they are in an administrative position. In *Khruschev's Phony Communism*, there are plenty of examples of collective farm or factory managers doing off-the-book production and appropriating for themselves the surplus (very much like in capitalism). But while the dictatorship of the proletariat is still up, this is both de facto and de jure illegal; this is a crime. It is a bit hard to call someone like this a class; they are a criminal."

—Gutsenberg, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

Image by Comrade Justine

⬟ (8-14)

"In 1992, there was a split between 'reaffirmists' and 'rejectionists' in the CPP. The CPP, during its Second Great Rectification, published a document called "Reaffirm Our Basic Principles and Carry the Revolution Forward", and in it, they restated and defended the principles of their party; they defended their application of Mao Zedong Thought (not yet Maoism) and critically supported leaders like Joseph Stalin and Mao Zedong. However, certain members of the CPP rejected these principles, and they were labeled 'rejectionists'; these people opposed Stalin and Mao while claiming to be 'Marxist-Leninists', and they were rightfully called counter-revolutionary. They formed the 'Revolutionary Workers' Party of the Philippines', a party that 'marks the final repudiation of the Maoist and Stalinist deviations' of the CPP; this is quite clearly a revisionist butchering of Marxism-Leninism, and the CPP recognized this. In addition to that split, many other splits occurred due to ideological differences; opportunists ended up going against the people's war by continually upholding incorrect ideas, surrendering to the state, and even killing CPP cadres."

—Paul Kingsley, *Victory to the People of the Philippines!*

▼ (8-15)

"The Permanent Revolution theory ignores the particular aspects of the proletarian revolution within certain countries, and it places too much emphasis on the universal aspect of the worldwide proletarian revolution. This is an idealist, metaphysical, impractical, and frankly absurd way to look at the socialist revolution."

—Paul Kingsley, *In Defense Of Socialism In One Country*

⬟ (8-16)

"In Yugoslavia, the centrally planned economy was abolished, and workers' 'self-management' took hold. This market 'socialist' system resulted in economic decentralization, every enterprise was its own entity, engaging in its own economic interactions, looking towards its own profits. It naturally resulted in uneven economic development among the different republics and regions. Indeed, uneven development is a general characteristic of all capitalist economies. This resulted in great regional disparity, which led to diverging interests and ethnic tensions among the republics.

"The fundamental reason why Kosovo was the most rebellious region was that the uneven and disproportional economic development resulted in it lagging, being relatively neglected. This system led to massive unemployment as well, which was an acute issue in Yugoslavia, especially in the poorer regions. In the 1980s, Macedonia had a 40 percent unemployment rate."
—M., *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

▼ (8-17)
"Anarchists think that the state can simply be abolished, and this completely ignores the nature of the state, how it developed, and how it will fade away. The state exists as a tool for a class to dominate other classes, and it cannot be "abolished" by "great people." It can only go away when class distinctions disappear, and that can only happen with class struggle and the establishment of a proletarian state (a dictatorship of the proletariat). If, immediately after overthrowing the bourgeoisie (after smashing its state without acquiring its property or changing its culture), there is no proletarian authority established, the bourgeoisie can easily retake power.

"Left communists are wrong, too. They reject the leadership of the vanguard party. They foolishly assume that the vanguard party leads without the workers' consent or input, which is simply incorrect. The vanguard party is democratic centralist, meaning that though it is centralized and disciplined, it is also democratic and allows for debate, dissent, and discussion of views when making decisions. The party also uses the mass line method of leadership, so the people get to explain to the party (or government, in socialism) what they feel is needed and what they want, and then the party can provide that to them in the form of policies and actions."
—Paul Kingsley, *Against Revisionism and Ultra-Leftism*

⬟ (8-18)
*"*Marxism shares with anarchism a progressive anti-hierarchical nature on oppressive social institutions to be swept under the rug of history, but Marxism rejects the philistine agendas of 'smash all states' and the petit-bourgeois revolutionism of anarchism: disorganized, ill-disciplined and ignorant tendency of people ineligible to commit to a serious struggle other than razing down a single police station during a spontaneous protest. Also,

far from wanting to abolish *all* hierarchies like anarchism, Marxism seeks to abolish all *class* hierarchies and their superstructural reflections."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (8-19)
"John Maynard Keynes openly avowed his contempt for the working class and his support for the bourgeoisie. He condemned Marxism."
—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

● (8-20)
"A proper communist engages in praise and criticism of historical socialism instead of fully dismissing it, knowing that they cemented the practical foundations for future communism. *'But that wasn't real communism'* is the erroneous Trotskyist argument of a recently 'deprogrammed' communist who is a newcomer to Marxism. "
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (8-21)
"Palestinians are fighting a war of national liberation against an illegal occupational entity, and China actively refuses demands of the Palestinian resistance to end normalization with Israel as they profit off the occupation."
—Husseini, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (8-22)
"We cannot, of course, put a time frame on socialist transition. However, in capitalist societies unhindered by imperialism, the capitalist country in question becomes imperialist, as imperialism is but a stage of monopoly capitalism expanding into foreign territory. In socialist transition, the state must prevent the growth of capitalist monopolies and cut them out completely; this form of revisionism is practiced in China, Vietnam, and Laos, among others (the former Soviet Union being an example)."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh and Omar El Sayed, *Socialist Transition*

⬟ (8-23)
"Mao described a third source of antagonistic contradictions, which was perhaps the most interesting and the greatest threat of all, which was that Chinese socialism was threatened from within the Chinese Communist Party itself, by revisionists, and what Mao liked to call "capitalist road"

tendencies. Mao argued that elements of the political bureaucracy, associated with the Chinese Communist Party, were evolving into a "new bourgeoisie" (somewhat similar to Milovan Djilas's notion of a "new class"). This had, in Mao's view, already happened in the Soviet Union, following the death of Stalin, with the ascension to power of Nikita Khrushchev. Revisionists like Khrushchev implemented market-based reforms, which led to a restoration of capitalism in the USSR. And Mao asserted that socialist China was similarly threatened by revisionists within the Communist Party."
—Jim Farmelant, *Antagonistic Versus Non-Antagonistic Contradictions*

● (8-24)
"With the anti-Zionist movement growing around the world, I think these criticisms of Gandhi's style of anti-imperialism are important. 'Non-violent', pro-feudal or pro-capitalist 'anti-imperialism' is toothless, and as many liberals claim to support Palestine while also condemning the armed resistance groups defending it, we must promote genuine anti-imperialism among the working class."
—Paul Kingsley, Original Quote

● (8-25)
"There is a lot of talk going on nowadays about the implications of an emerging 'multipolar world.' It is indeed valid to assume that this will help the cause of socialism and anti-imperialism. After all, the formation of unipolar hegemony in the '80s and '90s led to some of the gravest defeats of people's movements worldwide. During those years, Fujimori quashed the Peruvian People's War, the French assisted Blaise Compaoré in deposing Thomas Sankara, Grenada faced a brutal American invasion, President Aristide of Haiti fell to a CIA-backed coup, and already existing western-allied regimes across the global periphery intensified their repression of mass-based opposition. Surviving Maoist struggles in India and the Philippines have never since rebounded to the level they were beforehand. Without rival superpowers to contend with, the Western imperialists could turn their full attention to the semi-colonial nations, where it has remained ever since. The fall of this unipolar hegemony, in turn, will loosen their grip to a degree, offering the global proletariat a glimmer of hope.

“But hope, as valuable as it may be, is only that. We need not forget that there was a ‘multipolar world order’ from the beginning of foreign policy up until four decades ago. Did that ‘multipolarity’ magically spark revolutionary struggle, or even inspire greater reforms? While the shifting tides of global power may indirectly provide communists an advantage, the principal vessel of *proletarian* class struggle is not the Russian Government nor the BRICS Bank. Rather, it is found in the communist and anti-imperialist parties, from Khan Younis to Davao, taking direct action to liberate their nations from all imperialist encroachment.”
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

● (8-26)
“‘National Bolshevism’, ‘Patriotic Socialism’ and other manifestations of ‘right-wing communism’ are all fascistic movements deceptively wearing the guise of ‘revolutionary socialism,’ just like how the NSDAP treacherously deceived the proletariat with calls to the slogan of ‘National Socialism’.”
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (8-27)
“If you went and told the masses, ‘your lives are numbers on a sheet to me,’ they will beat you down to the very ground on which you said that. If their lives don’t matter to you, neither would yours to them. We already know that communists won’t stop at arbitrary moral standards to start a revolution; that is how it was for most of history. Saying these things is not going to make you look smart or pragmatic; it’s just being a fool. Why would the masses support someone who doesn’t even think about them?

“Many workers in your position are conservatives, and they should be given political consciousness and educated by the mass line because they currently lack it. When they start sharing the same wrath towards the bourgeoisie, their forces of repression, and their state, that is when you will educate them that it is the *bourgeoisie* that is expendable.”
—Omar El-Sayed, *Serious Discussions Channel*

⬟ (8-28) ℹ
“First-world social ‘democracy’ or social fascism is capitalism in critical condition, often governing as a transition phase to its related cousin: fascism.

The social-democratic politicians and trade union leaders collaborate with other bourgeois parties to extinguish the revolutionary spirit within the working class using calls to reform. They attempt 'pacification' through concessions such as higher wages and social benefits to bait and stall them from waging revolution, while simultaneously repressing labor strikes and anti-fascist resistance. They show leniency to fascists who plunder and murder in those 'democratic' states, as they refuse any united front against fascism, scapegoating the communists in their opportunism.

"A time this was made clear was the communists' prevention of the Kapp Putsch by the right-wing 'Freikorps,' then pardoned by the SPD in their coup d'etat as the coup-resisting workers were sentenced. Social-democrats revealed their treachery again during the July Revolt in 1927 by the emboldened workers of Austria in backlash over the pardoning of fascist terrorists who murdered Schutzbund workers in an ambush, and when they covertly mobilized fascist terrorist organizations like the Heimwehr, Blackshirts, and the Freikorps to decimate foreseen proletarian revolutions.

"When the militant fascist fronts are finally a well-equipped rank and file, no longer the former ragtag, isolated cluster like in the past, the bourgeoisie inclines to transfer state instruments to the fascist thugs to exterminate the inevitable class revolution. Reformists, trade union leaders, and social democrats will also be kept at bay by fascists, intended to act as 'life vests' for the bourgeoisie. They are inclined to keep the masses on a tight leash, telling them not to revolt against the bourgeoisie as a whole. If an anti-fascist revolution were to reach a boiling point, they could swiftly alter its class basis from being a potential socialist revolution to a bourgeois-democratic revolution."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

9—Imperialism and Neocolonialism

The highest and final stages of capitalism

● (9-1)

"'Great Replacement Theory' argues that 'savage' immigrants come to plunder and conquer 'our' territory and turn Europe into a colony, so we must 'save' Europe and the Caucasians. Meanwhile, the first world of Europe and North America are truly the real savages who exploit the global south with bourgeois wars, debt contracts, and comprador coups to maintain their modern-day neocolonial empires."

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (9-2)

"How free is a market where only three asset management firms own the largest shares in nearly every corporation?

—Robby LaBurne, *Response To Jordan Peterson's Critique Of The Communist Manifesto*

▼ (9-3) ✪

"Today, imperialism manifests itself mostly in neocolonialism or bureaucratic capitalism. Many investments from rich capitalist countries go into these neo-colonies, which act independently, but in reality, rely on the imperialist powers. A classic example is French imperialism in West Africa: while these countries may have won their independence in the '60s, their banking is still mostly controlled by France. Neo-colonies are usually shared by other imperialists, instead of being administered by one imperialist power, like under normal colonialism."

—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *India and Imperialism, A Modern Perspective*

● (9-4) ✪

"Eventually, because of the symbiotic relationship between banks and industrial monopolists formed by loans and deposits, both need to find new markets once they have squashed their minor competitors. This financial

monopoly leads to the export of capital, a way for imperialists to expand their markets."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *India and Imperialism, A Modern Perspective*

▼ (9-5)
"Trump is extending a deal to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, protecting the government and suppressing rebel groups in exchange for access to the country's vast mineral resources.

"The greatest consequences of this deal will fall on the working masses of the Congo. If it were passed, it can only be expected that their labor and mineral wealth would be further exploited by international finance capital. Swiss mining firm Glencore, which supplies many U.S. technological firms, has been sued over using child labor in the Congo.

"It's estimated that the Congo has a total of $24 trillion in mineral wealth. The implications of who owns this wealth, whether it be the Congolese people or Anglo-American monopolies, are massive."
—Robby LaBurne, *Neocolonialism and the Congo Minerals Deal*

● (9-6)
"It's not left against right.
It's not black against white.
Hope you already knew
It's not 'Jew versus you.'

"Read Lenin and Marx
when you put on your glasses.
Because the battle for the world
is imperialism against the masses."
—Poem By Robby LaBurne

● (9-7)
"Semi-colonialism, semi-feudality, and bureaucrat capitalism are interlinked. If one country is a semi-colony then of course it is going to develop bureaucrat capitalism and semi-feudalism even when there is little to none

left. The position of semi-colonialism hinders or destroys a home market; what is left in its place is semi-feudality."
—Gutsenberg, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline'*

● (9-8) ℹ
"80% of banana production, for example, is controlled by only four capitalist enterprises. 94% of oil production is in the hands of a combination of Big Oil companies and state monopolies."
—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

● (9-9)
"A reminder that Western countries aren't the only Imperialists, unless you mean we must support Imperial Japan in World War 2 or the Central Powers during World War 1."
—African Stalin, *X*

▼ (9-10)
"Mao outlined the world into three parts. First World: imperialist superpowers (US, and USSR) Second World: Junior imperialists (namely Canada, Western Europe, and Japan) Third World: Socialist states and countries oppressed by imperialism, including both nationalists attacked by imperialism and compradors acting on imperialism's behalf."
—Paul Kingsley, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (9-11) ℹ
"Coinciding with this trend was President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines seeking to export labor as a means to both reduce unemployment and enrich the nation's coffers. Naturally, many Filipinas found work as domestic helpers in the households of Hong Kong's middle class, and other Southeast Asian countries soon followed suit.

"From what I gather, domestic helpers are usually paid no more than HK$8,000/month (which is peanuts compared to what a local mother can earn with a full-time job). They get some additional perks like having accommodation provided by their employer, which often means squeezing themselves into a 16 square-foot storage room if they're lucky."
—Danny Wong, *Quora*

▼ (9-12)

“Al Qaeda, ISIS, and the like may not seem to be America’s best friend. But, as William Clay said, America has no friends, only interests. In Syria, these interests are to suppress popular rule to establish dominance over the region, and protect Israel from resistance. Whether that suppression is by U.S. drones or Christian-beheading thugs doesn’t matter in the minds of the State Department.”

—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

⬟ (9-13)

“Somalia’s plight is the result of present and past imperialist meddling. In the original division of Africa, the territory of modern Somalia was split into five sections and shared between the powers of Britain, Italy, France, and Ethiopia. Today, the Somali nation is a semi-colonial country divided between Turkey, Ethiopia, and the United States. This division was achieved by appealing to tribalist sentiments, using tribes as compradors to prevent the formation of a national bourgeoisie that could form its own national state. The lack of national unity due to tribalism and sectarianism was best demonstrated when foreign companies dumped toxic materials onto Somali shores. In conclusion, tribalism and sectarianism are the enemies of national liberation struggles!”

—Zahra, Original Quote

⬟ (9-14)

"Few colonial regimes were as bloody and avaricious as the British occupation of India. From 1757 to 1947, the British colonialists extracted approximately 35 trillion USD worth of resources from India, while giving the exploited populace crumbs in exchange. Indeed, during British rule, the Indian subcontinent saw virtually no increase in its per capita income. The administration's economic policies also destroyed India's native manufacturing industry, immiserating millions of craftsmen and destroying the subcontinent's economic wealth. Indian peasants endured terrible exploitation and overtaxation by the colonial authorities and local landlords allied with the British. The regime also deliberately stoked sectarian tensions as a means of "divide and rule."

"Far from improving their living conditions, colonialism thrust the people into even further poverty than before. Hunger and disease continually plagued the population. Untold millions died from British-induced famine, who had no sufficient food surplus as a result of their rulers taking it all. Over 30 major famines occurred in British-occupied India. Scholars estimate that as many as 165 million people died as a result of British colonial policy between 1860 and 1900 alone. The average life expectancy dropped to as low as 21 years. This brutalization has left long-lasting scars on Indian society, affecting it to this day."
—M., Original Quote

▼ (9-15)
"Kosovo is still under NATO military occupation, by the KFOR task force of NATO specifically. The largest American military base in Europe is in Kosovo. It's a very important strategic position for them, never mind all the mineral resources in Kosovo."
—M., *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (9-16)
"The Saudi-led coalition uses American money and bombs, and it, like Israel, murders the country's inhabitants and leaves them no choice but to defend their national sovereignty with force. World imperialism supports the puppet state in Yemen, but the masses of the country support the nationalists fighting to liberate their country from imperialism."
—Paul Kingsley, *Palestine, Yemen, and the Middle East at Large*

▼ (9-17) ℹ
"The Zelensky regime established a program for foreign investment requiring $400 billion to rebuild the economy. This is almost double the amount it took to rebuild Iraq after the U.S. invasion there. Gryban, the finance minister, stated that 'become one of the best in the world in terms of opportunities for investors.' Ukraine is indeed a semi-colony, and quite a profitable one."
—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

⬟ (9-18) ℹ

“American imperialists were happy to have southern Korea as an obedient semi-colony to be exploited, but they were also insatiable in their desire for more markets, more resources, and especially more labor power. The republic they backed continued to suppress Korean patriots and democratic forces, against the will of the masses. Many Koreans participated in an insurgency in the south starting in 1948, so the US supported a campaign to eliminate this communist opposition; nearly 200 thousand Koreans were murdered in this suppression. Furthermore, the illegitimate ROK started border clashes with the DPRK well before ‘the Korean War officially started’, before June 25, 1950; [quoting *Patriots and Empires*:] ‘Rhee frequently promised to undertake a “northern expedition” to “recover lost territory,” and in the summer of 1949 his army started to provoke fighting along the 38th parallel with the forces of the DPRK’.”

—Paul Kingsley, *Solidarity With the Korean People Against Imperialism!*

⬟ (9-19)

“In the present, almost all, if not all, countries on earth have a state monopoly, a very telling thing being central banks and the like. What distinguishes them is, though this has mostly to do with semi-colonialism, whether they are: debtor or creditor states—which country seeks investors and which gives them—so the capital that reproduces itself in the bureaucrat countries is foreign financial capital in which the profits are made abroad.”

—Gutsenberg, *‘Ask A Maoist’ Hotline*

⬟ (9-20)

“During the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, the central banks of the socialist countries lost: Bulgaria — about 160 tons; Hungary — more than 60 tons; Czechoslovakia — 56 tons; Romania — up to 50 tons; Poland — up to 10 tons; Bulgaria — 5 tons. The USSR suffered the largest losses. In 1989-1992, more than 1,000 tons were exported from its territory to the West. Officially, this gold went "to pay off debts", which not only did not decrease but, on the contrary, increased sharply. In 2014, after the coup d'état in Kyiv, the United States seized 14 tons from the Ukrainian central bank to pay off debts.

“The latest case of gold ‘expropriation’ is related to Afghanistan, during the evacuation of which the Americans seized 22 tons of the precious metal. In total, since 1971, the US has appropriated between 5 and 6 thousand tons of gold, which allowed it to declare an ‘increase’ in its free gold holdings from less than 3 thousand to more than 8 thousand tons.”
—Svetlana Cheraskova, *Quora*

⬟ (9-21) ℹ
“Each year, $30 billion of African gold, including $16 billion from Sudan, is exported into the United Arab Emirates. The latter number amounts to a whole *seventh* of the war-ridden nation’s gross domestic product, and nearly ten times its healthcare budget.

“Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo or ‘Hemedti’, the head of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, owns 11 of these illegal refineries, contributing to his net worth of $7 billion. His army is directly involved in this business of gold smuggling, through securing mines and transportation. While they are portrayed as a ragtag militia, follow the money and you’ll see they’re the textbook definition of an imperialist comprador. On top of the crimes against his own people, Dagalo previously provided mercenaries to suppress the Houthi resistance in Yemen and recently endorsed Netanyahu’s plan to ethnically cleanse Gaza.

“International watchdogs have consistently discovered evidence of Emirati weapons utilized by the RSF, confirming the existence of a two-way relationship. RSF massacres plague Sudan’s villages while Dubai’s souks are flooded with gold, and Dagalo is given a ten-digit remuneration while his people are on the brink of famine; you couldn’t have one without the other. Whether or not the Emirati government is actively complicit in this process does not change the fact that Sudan’s civil war is fueled not by ‘barbarism’ but by bureaucratic capitalism.”
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

⬟ (9-22)
“The repeal of Glass–Steagall, long chafed at by banks, was justified by the perceived need to keep the U.S. financial sector ‘competitive' in the world market. This was so seen, or claimed, even though financial machinations add little, if any, productive value to the economy, while adding

considerably to the wealth of speculators. The repeal was a central act of deregulation and a major victory for neoliberalism. It allowed the development of giant investment banks like J.P. Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, Wells Fargo, and Lehman Brothers. Along with giant insurers like A.I.G. and mortgage lenders like Countrywide, these megabanks created, traded, and initially profited hugely from exotic, risky, and often unregulated novel financial instruments. These were largely based on home mortgage loans made to people often known to be unable to repay them. Nonetheless, these securities were sold to investors as safe investments graded AAA by rating agencies competing for bank business and fees.

"The megabanks insured each other, offloading risk of loss to other megabanks, and securitized those risks, creating a house of cards in the tens of trillions. They could choose their own regulators from among several agencies, creating a market in regulation to see which agency would offer the least real oversight. The players raked in the chips—income for the top 1 percent increased 275 percent from 1979 to 2007, and an average of 40 percent for everyone else—on the premise that housing prices would always go up. Until 2007-2008, when they did not go up any more."
—Justin Schwartz, *Neoliberalism And The Law*

⬟ (9-23) ℹ
"Debt contracts work by deceiving a country with the sugary candy of 'economic development,' but in reality, they catalyze neo-colonial development. As comprador regimes borrow imperialist loans to afford foreign construction, they turn their nations into rentier states, parasitically bound on exploitation with loans and high interest rates, facilitated by the infamous World Bank and IMF. The aftermath results in a robbery of countries with domestic resources as all potential self-sufficiency is scavenged by Nike, Nestle, Apple, and alike for cheapened variable capital: the costs of labor-power, and constant capital: the cost of means of production.

"As trillions of dollars of debt accumulate worldwide—fueled by the export of capital—the exploited masses are made dependent on imports like grain. This intentional destruction of self-sufficient economies straps a collar and leash on their systems, coercing them into exporting resources to pay off

debt in an endless loan-debt spiral. They produce cheaper commodities but must buy them back at artificially inflated prices, ensuring the imperial core maintains a monopoly on net appropriation. In totality, they are forced to submit to the system or face imperialist retribution.

"In summary, this is not some glitch but an implanted feature of the same old imperialist method—analogous to letting criminals rob your house daily. And when you resist, they assassinate you."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (9-24) ✪i
"It is necessary for communists in first-world countries to acknowledge that the true abolition of imperialism would likely decrease their material consumption. Under any remotely fair world system, the people of Africa, South Asia, and Latin America would have no burden to fuel the habits of wealthy nations, which, per the London School of Economics, amount to 74% of global overconsumption. Yet, unlike in the past, it now carries the irreversible and direct consequence of ever-increasing carbon emissions, of which imperialist nations carry thirty times the responsibility.

"To dance around this 'elephant in the room' can put a well-meaning person at odds with not only the masses of oppressed nations but also the planet on which they rely. The problem must be confronted face-first to build true proletarian solidarity across imperialism's dividing line. However, it is reasonable to believe that a sufficient quantity of western citizens would happily trade Amazon and Temu [and fuel-guzzling automobile transportation] for a stable environment, if given the opportunity through a collective economic decision."
—Robby LaBurne, *Original Quote*

⬟ (9-25)
"The dollar's hegemony is inseparable from the US's ability to project its military and cultural hegemony all over the globe. Its devaluation (via printing money) is rather mild and controlled compared to other countries, mostly due to the country's strength and relative stability. There's a reason why nobody's trading in the Indian rupee or the Mexican peso.

“This is why the US starts wars and regime changes everywhere. By making America the only major country on earth with long-lasting security and stability, it ensures that the supremacy of the dollar would never be challenged. If the dollar is no longer the sole currency used to trade oil, the American economy collapses.

“Any attempt to trade oil in any currency besides the US dollar would be met with colour revolution at best, and carpet bombing at worst. Even ‘friendlies’ like the EU aren’t spared—that’s what the bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999 was for.”
—Danny Wong, *Quora*

⬟ (9-26) 🛈
“The world’s financial powers uphold structural adjustment programs, or SAPs, which focus on these five major objectives:

1. Privatization that solely benefits foreign investors
2. Trade deregulation: removal of trade laws so a nation can export its rare earth minerals/natural resources more easily to further enact economic dependence on imports, destroying local production.
3. Corporate deregulation: makes foreign exploitation of absolute surplus value: increasing workday for profit, relative surplus value: increasing production expectations for profit easier.
4. Currency devaluation: a weaker currency that destroys purchasing power, a cakewalk to extract exports from the global south with their dominant currencies, which can obtain more for less.
5. Austerity: extremely gutted social programs and safety nets.

“These effects are accelerated by exploited nations competing for imperial investment appeals by lowering wages and resource costs. They all exist like the unalterable ‘terms and conditions’ on a contract. These nations are defrauded by the imperialist robbers who tell you ‘it's worth it for you’ but in reality only make you their indentured servant.”
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (9-27) ℹ

"Norway, for example, dropped 600 bombs on Libya back in 2011 when Gaddafi was overthrown. Without countries like Libya to drill in, the scope of the Norwegian oil industry would be significantly lessened. And that wouldn't be good for the state either, since Equinor pays $2.2 billion in tax annually: nearly 10% of the state's entire budget. Nearly all of the largest businesses in the nation have operations that extend far beyond their borders. Norsk Hydro, for example, proudly runs mines on all seven continents. In 2018, they were called out for breaking environmental law at a plant in Brazil. Profits from this style of expansionism fuel the spending of the Norwegian welfare state.

"This doesn't just apply to Norway; all of these countries are home to international imperialist monopolies such as Volvo, H&M, Lego, or Nokia. As they reap the natural resources and labor of semi-colonies in the global south, the government can take a chunk of it to spend on their people."
—Robby LaBurne, *Why Social Democracy Doesn't Work*

⬤ (9-28)

"Capitalist production is *already* socialized, for they work collectively. Even capitalists acknowledge the need for a form of planning (within the anarchic market) for their large, complex monopolies, recognizing the need to coordinate resources and the manufacturing process to sprout a profitable multinational firm. Yet all the profits accumulated from this planning are privately appropriated for the accumulation of capital. We must discard the brute tendencies of capitalist gangsterism, replacing it with a people's economy that's guided by successful planning on a national scale."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

10—The State and Fascism

The most powerful machines of class dictatorship

● (10-1) ✪

"The entire legal system of every bourgeois country is geared to serve the bourgeois class, regardless of whether it claims to equally serve all citizens, including in the so-called liberal democracies. One only needs to look at acts and decrees regularly being passed that decrease wages, increase the retirement age, restrict trade unions, allow companies to sue trade unions for losses incurred during strikes, give tax breaks to capitalists, impose austerity measures on the masses, give contracts to arms manufacturers, bolster the state's forces of repression, give billions of dollars worth of military aid to Israel, etc."

—M., *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (10-2)

"Institutional design, lobbying, propaganda, and open state repression have eroded democracy in capitalist countries; elections there, varying by locale, represent the masses as much as Marie Antoinette did before the French Revolution."

—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

▼ (10-3)

"In the sphere of law, just as in what Marx calls in Capital, vol. 1, the sphere of exchange, 'the exclusive realm of Freedom, Equality, Property, and Bentham [egoism],' the courts have, over recent decades, tended to reflect the imperatives of neoliberalism. In interpreting the First Amendment, they have increasingly treated giant corporations like General Electric or Goldman Sachs as essentially the same as or equal to you or me for purposes of freedom of speech."

—Justin Schwartz, *Neoliberalism And The Law: How Historical Materialism Can Illuminate Recent Governmental And Judicial Decision Making*

⬟ (10-4)

"The state is a repressive social apparatus that continually reinforces the economic and political dominance of the owners of the means of production.

It is “the organized power of one class for oppressing another” since ‘between equal rights, force decides.’ It “legalizes and perpetuates this oppression,” ensuring, in the case of a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, their continued accumulation of wealth. The state is tasked with suppressing challenges to the status quo. Laws and regulations are (whether de facto or de jure) enforced in favor of these owners. State boundaries may or may not coincide with national boundaries—and in imperialist states, the state may be formed by one nation’s hegemony over another without the latter being entitled to share power.”
—J.A. Sterling, Original Quote

Image By Robby LaBurne

▼ (10-5)
“Morally speaking, not all cops have to be bad people. Practically speaking, police as a whole play a reactionary role in the class struggle by preserving the neoliberal order, no matter how much they want deep down to serve their fellow citizens.”
—Robby LaBurne, *X*

● (10-6)
"Bourgeois 'democracy' only exists to render the rich a voice to settle their conflicting interests, and to pacify the working class from awakening from their slumber. In retrospect, they hold a discreet pact to protect their repulsive system from annihilation."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (10-7)
"If you choose to dissent against a capitalistfirm's practices by publicly saying they infringed upon your rights, they can sue you for defamation. The press is really only truly free if you have assets, since then you could expose corporate abuses and protect yourselfthrough the legal process of litigation."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (10-8)
"Those who assert that 'socialism is when the government does stuff' are ignorant of the fact that capitalism requires just as much governmental oversight to maintain the system – that capitalist governments 'do stuff' as well.

"The only contrast is that the bourgeois dictatorship defends and serves the interests of big finance, monopoly, and cartel capital under its mass centralized militant apparatus. The proletarian dictatorship reverses the relations of production to defend the interests of the proletariat."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (10-9)
"Indeed, the immediate response to the [2008 financial crisis] was developed by government officials working in close cooperation with the CEOs of the biggest banks. That, itself, effectively foreclosed any possibility of a public takeover. It would be hard to find a more literal example of Marx's idea in the Manifesto that "the executive of the state is but a committee for managing the affairs of the whole bourgeoisie."
—Justin Schwartz, *Neoliberalism And The Law*

● (10-10)
"Friedrich Hayek and Milton Friedman, both of whom are revered in libertarian circles, would be supportive of Pinochet's dictatorship in Chile. If

you prioritize private property and the freedom of the market as much as most libertarians do, then one might well come to anti-democratic conclusions and opt for an authoritarian regime that is devoted to protecting the rights of the owners of capital."
—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

● (10-11)
"In Greensboro, NC, in Nov. 1979, fascists, specifically Nazis and Klansmen, murdered five of my friends and comrades on national TV, and were acquitted of any crime."
—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

⬟ (10-12)
"Fascism is heroin for the proletariat sold by the fascist cartels to deplete the realism of class struggle to the hallucinations of chauvinistic struggle. It is capital in the stages of terminal illness, trying every new volatile 'cure' in trials and experiments to stretch their lifespan, even if only meager. Once fascism's destruction is made clear, misguided sections of the masses place their hopes in 'anti-fascist' bourgeois liberals to stop fascism, as they fail to see the class standing of both liberalism and fascism.

"In practice, those pseudo 'anti-fascists' will only resist when realizing that the fascist bourgeoisie will jeopardize the position of the entire bourgeoisie with their openly antagonizing tactics, as they try to rebel against the restless captain of a broken sinking ship merely to save their own interests, not ours, and never in the name of 'anti-fascism.'"
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (10-13)
"Fascism dreams of the return of the past in societal culture,albeit with additional chauvinism. It takes it to the next level with the contraction of all scientific productive development as 'demonic and vile,' acting as Luddites who perceive technology as a threat to both their lives and capitalism. But why? It's to shatter knowledge so the shadows of false consciousness can reign, since when science advances the productive forces, it exposes the rifts between decaying relations of production and the advancing productive forces; this renews revolutionary class struggles. As the venomous

dictatorship of fascism takes helm to order salvation to the bourgeoisie, just like the Nazis who began to limit production in non-war related industries as R. Palme Dutt showed, akin to how the chauvinistic medieval church called science 'heretic' to maintain its grip of power."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (10-14)
"Fascism has no theoretical backbone; it simply borrows the decaying scraps of bourgeois theory to 'legitimize' the perpetual existence of the bourgeoisie."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (10-15)
"India's ruling party is Hindu nationalist; it is reactionary, and its supporters attack Christians, Muslims, and people of lower castes and indigenous tribes. CPI (Maoist) is tasked with combating this fascism, and so it allows people of all religions, castes, and tribes to join. The people's war is the most revolutionary, democratic force in India, and that is why India wants to crush it."
—Paul Kingsley, *Uphold Charu Majumdar and the Indian People's War!*

⬟ (10-16)
"This major war on drugs was a method the bourgeoisie used in combination with harsh sentences for simple possession and selling of drugs, even weed. With this came a boom in incarceration, particularly of Hispanic and black populations, mostly men, in these institutions, where legally they were required to labor on behalf of the US state."
—F.M.M., *Address To The Black Masses*

⬟ (10-17) ℹ
"The Amritsar Massacre, under the British Raj, was a thousand times more brutal than Tiananmen Square, which itself was the work of a capitalist state crushing class-conscious workers as well as liberal saboteurs. The French police committed a massacre of Algerians in Paris, which was covered up. Peruvian liberal President Alan Garcia Perez's government murdered 250 inmates in cold blood. The British later opened fire on Irish civil rights protesters on Bloody Sunday in 1972. As the list goes on and on, it becomes

clear that killing dissidents is not the exception in the capitalist world; it is the norm."
—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

● (10-18)
"If you don't want the fascists to take over, stop relying on a party like the SPD to halt the advance of one like the AfD. This is simple logic in a world of political affairs. Instead, organize the masses and advocate for a United Front with truly left parties if you desire to stop the most reactionary elements of finance capital, while primarily agitating and organizing for revolution."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (10-19)
"Fascist regimes have a trend of groupthink that allows them to reign in supporters, while at the same time demonizing the out-group. Modern fascist regimes share a similar tendency with earlier fascist regimes to be voted into power. But since capitalism has degraded most of the opposition to itself, the attention of fascism sways now away from Bolshevism and Communism (though they remain targets) and towards immigrants, Muslims, and the disenfranchised.

"Whereas fascism of the old was patriotic, modern fascists tend to take predatory note of the increasing alienation that men feel and introduce pseudo-intellectual ideas that make them prone to fascist rhetoric. Modern fascism is not something the media warns you about anymore. Modern fascism is not branded as fascism – it is rather 'traditionalism.' It's become something you can vote into power."
—Comrade Justine, *Original Quote*

11—Communist Leaders and Thinkers

Trailblazers, educators, and upstanding human beings

● (11-1)
"There is the fact that Marx was very much opposed to naming his ideas after himself. He was opposed to a "cult of personality." He called his theories the "critique of political economy" and "the materialist conception of history." He accepted Engels' term "scientific socialism."
—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

● (11-2)
"Engels noticed the industrial revolution at his factory, and noticed the horrid conditions of the workers. Another bourgeois could have shoved that feeling away and said, 'At least they get paid.' Yet upon seeing the exploitation of the workers, he sympathized with their struggle."
—Omar El-Sayed, *Serious Discussions Channel*

▼ (11-3)
"Vladimir Lenin wrote about 30,000 documents. At the same time, he managed to speak at hundreds of rallies and lead a huge state. All his life, Lenin was engaged in chess. Ilyich had a party nickname, which was used by his comrades and himself: "Old Man." According to the recollections of many contemporaries, Lenin was a very cheerful person who loved a good joke. At school, Lenin was an excellent student, and at graduation he received a gold medal."
—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

● (11-4) ✪
"My maternal grandmother was an illiterate peasant who kept Stalin's portrait throughout her entire adult life. Not Khrushchev's or Brezhnev's portraits but Stalin's. When I was 5 or 6 years old, I thought this was her father, without knowing the name, I called him 'big grandpa.'"
—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

▼ (11-5) ✪

"Robespierre was power hungry, George Washington was power hungry, Bonaparte was power hungry, Ben-Gurion was power hungry; so was Abraham Lincoln, and whoever else might be your favorite statesman or leader. Otherwise, they'd all wind up selling socks & matches at a petty shop, or something.

"Lenin was not power hungry for the sake of power: he wanted to implement his policies and make his political vision come true. He succeeded in his plan, which makes him one of the greatest leaders and politicians of all time in world history."

—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

⬟ (11-6)

"[Marshal Kliment] Voroshilov was devoted to the people's party and personally to Stalin. Although he could express his personal opinion, as was the case in 1927 about politics in China, he was distinguished by a bright and crushing peasant-proletarian simplicity in his speeches. He possessed great purposefulness, energy, capacity for work, and diligence. Having made his way from a simple worker to the people's commissar of defense, he retained his simplicity and sincerity while growing intellectually. He created a new armed forces of the country, visited the troops, conducted exercises and meetings. By all means, he consistently and methodically increased the power of the Red Army. The troops respected and loved him."

—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

▼ (11-7)

"I don't think there's any reason to doubt that Stalin was committed to socialism as he saw it. He was no doubt brutal and oppressive, but he was no Idi Amin or Mobutu, or even a Putin, who used his position for personal wealth and luxury. He lived fairly simply as a public official."

—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

● (11-8)

"Despite what bourgeois academics may say, in reality, Stalin was 100% accountable to the people. Stalin himself could be removed by the Central Committee at any time, and not all of the policies he wanted were passed,

nor were all of his opponents killed. Kalinin and Molotov opposed some of his propositions, yet were still allowed in the chambers of government."
—F.M.M., *Address To The Black Masses*

● (11-9)
"Stalin was introverted from his birth, but was also a naturally born leader who socialized a lot and knew how to interact (and attract) the people. His manners were almost impeccable, and he was known to have a very warm and friendly personality in private interactions. Also, Stalin had a very good sense of humor."
—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

▼ (11-10) ✪
"Mao laughed and said, 'But it is not a crime to offend me! Xiao Wu, do you know why the people love us and support us?'

'Because we fight to make the people's lives better,' said the young man.

"Mao nodded and replied, 'That is correct. The people love us because we are a revolutionary force; we are here to liberate them, to serve them. Therefore, if we make any mistakes at all, then anyone is free to scrutinise us, however they may choose to do so, and it is our duty to listen to them.'"
—Danny Wong, *Quora*

⬟ (11-11)
"Ernst Thalmann was imprisoned for almost twelve years. All this time, he endured constant interrogations with the use of torture, severe beatings, the traces of which the Gestapo did not try to hide from Thalmann's wife, Rosa, and his daughter, Irma, during their rare visits to the prisoner. But neither physical torment nor enhanced sessions of psychological pressure could break the will of the courageous fighter, the communist. Having little contact with the underground, he knew that the Communist Party, led by Ulbricht and Pieck, continued to work despite total persecution. At the end of the war—at the end of his life, already thrown into Buchenwald, he knew about the defeat of the Nazis near Moscow, Stalingrad and Kursk, knew about the inevitable, fatal for the Nazis turning point in the war. He saw how he was winning the cause to which he devoted his entire short, but long and

eventful, life. And accepting the words of Marx that happiness is a struggle, Ernst Thalmann could say with confidence that he was happy."
—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

● (11-12)
"To reactionaries, 'socialism' always results in a handful of elites getting rich at everyone else's expense. Does it work this way in practice? Both Ho Chi Minh and Che Guevara quite literally lived in huts."
—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

▼ (11-13)
"Mao rebelled against his elders, such as his father Mao Yichang, a petty-bourgeois landowner and grain merchant, at age 13. So why can't the bright youth do the same today without stigmatization? No human is perfect. It's hard to expect one to be under bourgeois cultural hegemony."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (11-14)
"On the one hand, Mao was a dictator, but on the other hand, he put China into anarchic chaos. On the one hand, he kept China poor, but on the other hand, he is bad because he made China a nuclear power. On the one hand, he took guns from Chinese people, but on the other hand, he let people take weaponry from military bases. Somehow, Western anti-communists can keep all of these opinions without going crazy. It is truly nonsensical."
—Paul Kingsley, *Quora*

⬟ (11-15)
"The Turkish state captured Ibrahim Kaypakkaya in 1973, and its agents continually tortured him. Despite his young age, he protected the party by refusing to release any secrets. The party suffered many losses in its leadership from conflict, yet it continued waging people's war against the fascist state. The people in the regions of their operations supported the revolution, especially the Kurdish people, who saw the cadres as their fighters and leaders."
—Paul Kingsley, *All Power To The Turkish People*

▼ (11-16)

"The example of Hồ Chí Minh lets us see the greatness of Marxism–Leninism and Maoism in the Vietnamese revolution. The revisionist Lê Duẩn wanted to cast out Maoism; he omitted the speeches and articles of Hồ that praised Mao Zedong Thought as the guiding thought of the Vietnamese revolution. But through the practice of people's war in Việt Nam, and Hồ's two articles summarizing *On Practice* and *On Contradiction* by Mao, we can see how the Vietnamese revolution was motivated by Maoism and the universality of it."

—Manitou, *Original Quote*

12—Dialectical Materialism

The philosophical foundation of revolutionary theory

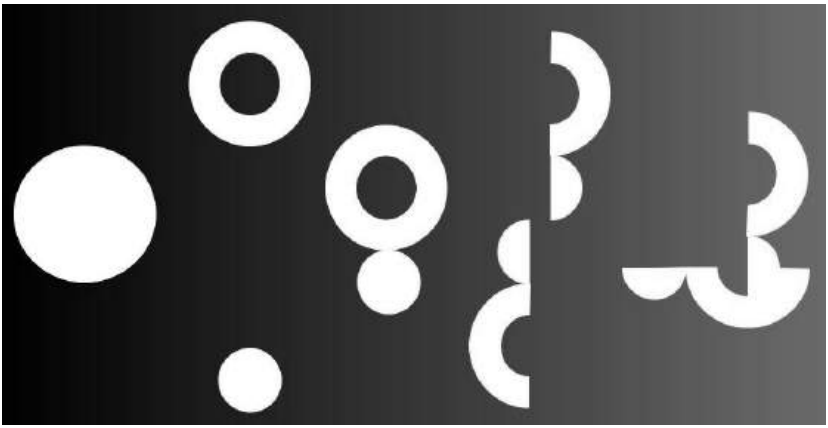

Illustration by Robby LaBurne

● (12-1)
"Dialectical materialism is everywhere. It's there in physics, as contradictions between forces lead to motion. It's there in chemistry and biology. It's there in math. So it is very much scientific."
—Paul Kingsley, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (12-2) ✪
"Human identity exists as the dialectical unity and struggle between current selves and material conditions. Between our values and computations, our passions and salaries. Over time, these two opposites shape one another; ego adapts to position while cognition motivates material action to change it.

"Since the day our species became distinct from nature, material circumstances have remained the principal aspect of this dialectical contradiction. As intangible economic laws and monetary flows dictate social production, we are still—in "free" capitalist society—beholden to forces outside our control. A prominent instance is the law of expanded reproduction, which necessitates excessive commodity manufacture on a systemic level, fueling consumer culture alongside climate catastrophe.

“Mankind must seize control over the productive forces if it wishes not to be dominated by them. Only through coordinating economic activity to consciously create long-term benefits can we truly have agency over our lives.”
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

● (12-3)
“The relation between bourgeoisie and proletariat cannot be viewed correctly without dialectics. With dialectics, we can determine that it’s an antagonistic contradiction, a primary contradiction; it is the basis of the economic system, and to transform society, we must resolve this contradiction.

“We can see the two classes are in a unity of opposites with one another; they’re connected. As the wealth of the bourgeoisie grows, so does the number of the proletariat, which leads to the contradiction intensifying further and further. As the bourgeoisie accumulates more capital, it forms monopolies and becomes imperialist. In both cases, we see the transformation of quantity into quality.

“As an antagonistic contradiction, it can only be solved if one opposite defeats and subsumes the other, negating it completely. In this case, it is the proletariat that is going to negate the bourgeoisie, abolishing itself in the process. The proletariat is defined by its position as a toiling, exploited class. Once it abolishes the class that exploits it, and once it abolishes classes altogether, it’s no longer going to be what it used to be; it’s going to transform. The bourgeoisie and proletariat are defined by their relationship to one another. Indeed, understanding dialectics is crucial if we want to know how to change society.”
—M., *‘Ask A Maoist’ Hotline*

⬟ (12-4) ✪
“The three basic principles of materialism can be summarized as such:

1. Materialists see reality no more than as it exists. A stone falling into a puddle is a result of someone dropping it into the puddle.

2. The universe is an objective whole, and matter exists outside of a person's consciousness. Rather than matter being the product of the mind, the mind is the greatest product of matter.
3. Our minds can understand the objective laws that shape our world. We can do this through both scientific experiment and rational thought. What happens in the universe isn't determined by some force beyond our comprehension."

—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

⬟ (12-5) ✪

"Contradiction is the struggle of opposite aspects within a united bond, for they necessitate each other's existence. Between cold and heat, or dark and light, they naturally have an internal 'power struggle.' Contradictions have a principal (dominant) aspect and a secondary aspect. Multiple contradictions collide with each other in an external power struggle to overthrow one another; take, for example, the bourgeoisie and the feudal aristocracy, and the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

"Contradictions can be antagonistic, as, for example, one requires a revolution to overthrow the oppressive class dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, or its most reactionary manifestation: fascism. There are also non-antagonistic contradictions, such as those with conservative-leaning proletarians and peasants needing peaceful education to follow the socialist road."

—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

▼ (12-6)

"If Newtonian physics could now be interpreted in materialist terms, despite the intentions of its founders, who were decidedly not materialists, then the same sort of thing could happen to relativity and quantum mechanics. The founders of these theories might not have been materialists, but there was nothing to prevent us from giving these theories materialist interpretations."

—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

▼ (12-7)

"There is truth, and there are falsehoods; truth is not 'relative,' we cannot be postmodernists believing 'personal truths.' Capitalist media tends to use

falsehoods, simply because it is rich people against socialism that fund this media, while proletarian media uses truths, albeit in a biased way."
—Paul Kingsley, *Quora*

▼ (12-8)
"There thus exists a symbiotic relationship between revolutionary action and revolutionary theory. And revolutionary theory often presents itself not through grand, sweeping axioms of universality. Sometimes, revolutionary truth comes in the form of a single realization — simple, plain, demonstrable. It is the thought of a cold, grinding healthcare machine stripping an elder of the family of proper, warm care. It is the realization that poverty is rampant because of inequitable wealth distribution, that poverty and financial inequity have a 1:1 ratio.

"The seeds of revolutionary action can grow softly, but firmly and steadily with the proper foundations. A protest may be held against a large corporation demanding that they lower their prices for a relative with an impoverished background. Revolutionary action does not grow, however, without guidance from proper theory, often coming from the party. Without guidance, protests can alienate, and companies can use the internal fractures of a movement against their burgeoning popularity.

"The seeds of true revolutionary action can only grow from the seeds of revolutionary thought. And revolutionary thought may only exist with the proper agitation of the party members and the revolutionary action of admitting the present state of things for what they are: unacceptable."
—Comrade Justine, *Original Quote*

⬟ (12-9)
"Ideas, as written by Stalin in *Dialectical and Historical Materialism*, are 'a reflection of matter, a reflection of being; that thought is a product of matter which in its development has reached a high degree of perfection.' Just as the formula for the circumference of a circle was only discovered by measuring the material properties of circles, the sociological conception of a government only came into being after society became too big for decisions to be made without structure. These ideas were thought of by humans after observing material conditions or trends, not the other way around. Therefore,

the value of an idea is found in material reality, and the material conditions of the world are what prove Marxism to be correct."
—Robby LaBurne, *Response to Jordan Peterson's Critique of the Communist Manifesto*

⬟ (12-10)
"Lenin criticized 'mechanistic' or crude forms of materialism, which reduce reality to static, unchanging matter. He stressed the need for a more dynamic, dialectical materialism, which recognizes the constant process of development and transformation in the material world. Curiously enough, in the philosophical debates of the 1920s, there was a school of thought that explicitly upheld a mechanistic materialism, which they contended was the most defensible form of Marxist materialism."
—Jim Farmelant, *Lenin's Philosophical Notebooks*

⬤ (12-11)
"Marxism isn't about individual morals. And it's for a good reason. We won't destroy capitalism, nor do anything to create a better world, if we only adhere to them. We're much better off judging actions and people by both their intended and actual impacts on the world."
—Robby LaBurne, *Response To Jordan Peterson's Critique Of The Communist Manifesto*

⬟ (12-12)
"Postmodernism can be essentially summarized as the rejection of meta-narratives. It's a profoundly idealist and subjectivist philosophy, not to mention anti-Marxist. It posits that the world is too varied and complex to create meta-narratives, too relative. Postmodernists deny the existence of an objective reality, rejecting the concept of objective truth.

"Marxism is a meta-narrative if there ever was one. It pushes a totalizing worldview attempting to provide a tool for explaining every aspect of reality, both nature and society. Postmodernism denies the knowability of the world, unlike Marxism, which says that we can come to know the world fully through successive generations of mankind and technological progress. Marxism posits that the world is an objective and unified reality, whose movement is guided by a set of universal laws. We can deduce these laws with the correct scientific methodology.

“Postmodernists like Foucault talk a lot about social conflict and oppression, but reject class struggle as the basis. ‘Intersectionality’ is another example of postmodern conflict theory. While there exist various forms of oppression, they interlink and overlap precisely because of their common basis in class oppression.”
—M., ‘*Ask A Maoist’ Hotline*

⬟ (12-13)
“Marx starts with the commodity, the most basic and simplest unit of the capitalist mode of production. He then shows how the germs of the contradictions of capitalism all reside in the commodity. He develops his explanation, going from the commodity to higher levels (quantity into quality), revealing how these contradictions develop and grow.

“The development of these contradictions is shown in the sum of its interconnected individual parts. The contradiction between the social character of production and the private character of ownership, the contradiction between wage-labor and capital, the contradiction between use-value and exchange-value, etc, are all laid bare. By analyzing these contradictions at various levels (starting with the commodity and then moving up), he shows how capitalism is a system that will inevitably fail due to them, giving way to a socialist society which will resolve the contradictions of capitalism.”
—M., ‘*Ask A Maoist’ Hotline*

⬟ (12-14)
“Dialectical materialism is analytic and explanatory of how and why change occurs. On the other hand, utilitarianism is prescriptive rather than analytic. ‘Maximizing utility’ can be bent to justify anything. You could use dialectical materialism to explain how and why utilitarian ethics emerge from a particular set of material conditions. But Marxism and utilitarianism are divergent. A Marxist wouldn’t say ‘the ends justify the means,’ they'd say ‘the material conditions justify the means.’”
—J.A. Sterling, *‘Ask A Maoist’ Hotline*

13—Education and Study

The first steps to class consciousness and action

▼ (13-1)

"In addition to free healthcare, we support free access to childcare and education. While infants need to stay with their parents, who will get paid leave for childcare, toddlers should get childcare with education, and children old enough will go to primary and then secondary school. After this, there will be potential paths for each child, with some pursuing higher education and others getting employed after secondary school. Workers' surplus production will substitute the taxes that would normally pay for this education in a capitalist economy, so taxes would be low or nonexistent."

—Paul Kingsley, *Manifesto of the ACP(M)*

▼ (13-2)

"Althusser argued that institutions like schools, churches, and the media serve to maintain the dominance of the ruling class by subtly reproducing ideology, which keeps individuals in a state of submission. These institutions function to perpetuate capitalist relations by shaping people's beliefs, values, and behaviors."

—Jim Farmelant, *Louis Althusser*

⬟ (13-3) ✪

"I was a Marxist academic. I was fired (denied tenure) twice, once at each of two different institutions, despite a publication record superior to that of colleagues who were not Marxist and who were granted tenure, or who had it. When I looked for jobs, I was told, "we already have a Marxist," something which, whether true or not, they'd never have said about someone with a different political orientation. There have been actual purges of Marxist academics at various times in our history."

—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

● (13-4)

"We graduate to become cultivated as wage slaves in the scholastic factory, to be conditioned not to rebel against the bourgeois apparatus. When the

teacher (boss) speaks, we are silent. We are treated as robots to be programmed, with the inability to freely and critically express our opinions on the questions of today, and solutions for tomorrow. Capitalist education is designed as alienating, not thought-provoking. We are only handed some assignments to complete at a due date for a grade, similar to being assigned what to clean or to compute silently in your profession."

"Grades produce no value despite the 'meritocratic' mythology arguing they do. In reality, your worthiness is not determined by your grades"
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (13-5)
"We don't oppose school, but oppose its crawling worms of indoctrination within class society. We fight for the liberation of learning, for the primacy of curiosity, but also for constructing true character in the face of the capitalist division of labor."
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (13-6)
"The masses aren't intellectually unstimulated because they lack intelligence. If they are, it's because intellectually unstimulated people are more useful to the ruling class."
—Robby LaBurne, *X*

▼ (13-7)
"China has been welcoming international students from Africa since the 1960s. The origins of this policy could be found in Maoist thought, as Chairman Mao believed in uniting the Third World under the banner of Marxism so that exploited people everywhere may stand against Western imperialism."
—Danny Wong, *Quora*

● (13-8)
"You shouldn't base your opinions just because 'these people said so.' You should look at them critically and examine if they are true or not."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (13-9) ✪

"You need to develop a critical eye first, well before any 'theory.' I'd recommend *Killing Hope* and *Inventing Reality*, and history like Mobo Gao, whose methodology is excellent."

—J.A. Sterling, *"Ask A Maoist" Hotline*

▼ (13-10)

"The deepest truths that reveal the shape and make of reality are often padded with uncomfortable implications. The truth is not something ingested directly and swiftly. Often, the pill comes in choking widths or unlubricated into the throat. No person had ever swallowed a truth with relief entirely before. Truth comes with a thought of curiosity, then blossoms and begins to be enacted."

—Comrade Justine, Original Quote

● (13-11)

"We all have new things to learn. Nobody has ever 'mastered' anything. There is still more, and the more you learn, the better you become. You do have to change your beliefs to adapt to the present. 'Classical Marxism', as an example, has limited real-world application today. That's why the only active revolutionary movements in the world are Maoist. They know how to incorporate Marxism into the present. Nobody here is going to be the perfect Marxist, but that doesn't mean we give up."

—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (13-12)

"While reading is still necessary, Marxist audiobooks and documentaries exist as an alternative means of learning."

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (13-13)

"Considering yourself an expert, it is easy to lose the meaning of further intellectual development and stop learning, but it is much more difficult to listen to others and adopt their knowledge and experience. A high opinion of your competence psychologically "closes" the channels of information for you and stops the development of intelligence."

—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

● (13-14)

"IQ doesn't tell you how smart you are. People can be less intelligent in something like math, but be adept in something like art, or vice versa."

—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (13-15)

"It's better to consume all biased media from all perspectives than to ever trust 'neutral' media. Consume both bourgeoisie and proletarian media, instead of looking for a neutral that won't exist."

—Paul Kingsley, *Quora*

● (13-16)

"You have to purposefully edit your news feeds to consume a balanced coverage, both politically and geographically. I read newspapers based in Thailand, Philippines, Congo, Bolivia, China, Colombia, Palestine, Indonesia, Haiti, Nigeria, Mexico, and Iran, alongside *Foreign Policy* and *National Review*. It is detrimental to only consume media from your own country and assume those stories are the most important thing in the world."

—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

⬟ (13-17)

"The approach you take in conducting an investigation, the questions you pursue, and the items you consider can often lead you astray just because of your tunnel vision or your own unique experiences. There's a limitation to knowledge gained without multiple perspectives. It's doable, but it's entirely possible your conclusions may divert somewhere eclectic. At the very least, you should have someone who acts as an advisor who will challenge you."

—J.A. Sterling, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (13-18)

"To be professional revolutionaries, we must observe our surroundings to question the decaying world and its inner functions so we can make a theoretical hypothesis to emancipate humanity. We shall then experiment and put into practice the science of Marxism so that our analysis of its shortcomings can be studied to rectify and repeat, which is the scientific method. Alongside self-criticism and iron discipline, it is the most resilient revolutionary weapon to improve society. "

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

14—Technology

An amplifier of oppression or a catalyst of change?

● (14-1)

"The Red Star (once used by the US Air Force, by the way) was a symbol of the planet Mars. One of the earlier Bolsheviks, Bogdanov, published a fiction book named "The Red Star" about the communist future. It was incorporated into the Soviet symbol system as a sign of technical progress and social advancement."

—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

▼ (14-2) ℹ

"As Cuba released a lung cancer vaccine in 2011, all the imperial core scientists were trying to use certain materials like gold to target the cancerous cells with chemotherapy, so they could sell a treatment rather than a cure."

—J.A. Sterling, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (14-3)

"Developments in information technology confirm the principles of Marxist political economy in several ways.

1. They've decreased production and distribution times greatly, and that has displaced small businesses and even some big ones to a considerable degree. Look at Amazon's effects on physical stores, such as Barnes and Noble.
2. AI pushes down professional workers and potentially ruins petty bourgeoisie artists, writers, and so on. It sharpens the contradictions between capital and labor.
3. On the flip side, the rise of information technology has reduced the power of intellectual monopolies, as people can easily reproduce commodified information for free through piracy. The contradiction between piracy and information intensifies.
4. It has increased the amount of unproductive labor investment that capitalists engage in, particularly in advertisements. Ads contribute neither use nor value to products. Increased spending there may

show that capital has accumulated to such a monstrous degree that it must be wasted to further increase sales."

—Paul Kingsley, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (14-4)

"Amazon has used AI to monitor workers and fire them if they don't meet standards, leading to 'extreme stress and anxiety.' From the last time we had a glimpse of Amazon's standards, employees had to urinate in cups."

—Robby LaBurne, *A Few Words About AI*

▼ (14-5)

"Oppressed countries that want to have real advanced technology must first smash the bureaucratic regime and cut out every tie with imperialism. Only then, by building an independent, strong economy that serves the people, can they develop science and technology. This science and technology must serve the people, not serve the oppressor."

—Manitou, Original Quote

▼ (14-6)

"Take the modern generation of combat tanks — Russian Armatas, Chinese Black Panthers, South Korean K2s, Indian Arjuns, American Abrams, Israeli Merkavas, German Leopards, and British Challengers. They may deliver a blow to their enemies, but once their nemesis becomes the weapon of mass resistance, they are burned to ashes."

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (14-7)

"In fact, there is more reason to innovate under socialism than in capitalism, as in capitalism, goods are made to make money, and thus sticking to the formula of what worked in the past is better than exploring potentially new ideas that won't make money. Hence why in the movie industry, for example, the dominant movies are all superheros, and why franchises such as *Star Wars*, *Terminator*, and the like, which were new ideas at the time, have received crappy remakes in comparison to what was released back then."

—F.M.M., *Serious Discussions Channel*

▼ (14-8)

"'Eco-capitalism' is a sham, too. It goes against the laws of capitalist production, so the capitalist class and the state it controls seldom implement environmentally-friendly measures; it only does so thanks to the pressures working people place on them when they protest and use force. On top of that, fossil fuel industries and "green" companies are often managed by the same finance capitalists, and oil companies are not unfamiliar with using 'green' posturing to promote their sales."

—Paul Kingsley, *Communism Or Extinction*

● (14-9)

"To address climate change, a socialist country would gather all the scientists and engineers into one government project, regardless of economic position. Let them figure out how to clean the environment, and wait for their proposal after a while of tests. When they have made a proposal, it goes through the proletarian parliament. After the decision is made to approve the proposal, it is tested in the real world and analyzed to determine if it works or not. If it works, the parts where it does not work best would be targeted and revised."

—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *Ecosocialism Channel*

⬟ (14-10)

"The American social credit system wasn't designed by the US government, but by Big Tech. For example, insurance companies are known to base their clients' premiums on their social media content; Airbnb and Uber rely on algorithms to refuse service to anyone deemed a liability."

—Danny Wong, *Quora*

▼ (14-11)

"With every school paper you try to write with ChatGPT, with every 'intimate conversation' you have with a virtual partner, you are only allowing massive corporations and the government to know more about you. And what is knowledge if not power?"

—Robby LaBurne, *A Few Words About AI*

⬟ (14-12)

“In the era of imperialism and monopoly capitalism, science and technology are the exclusive goods of large monopolistic capitalist corporations. This is a form of exploitation by imperialism of third-world countries. That's why we see when Việt Nam or India or any oppressed countries talks about "making advanced technology" or "using science in production", in reality, they talk about acquiring imperialist technology and science, and they can only have that by unequal trade with imperialism (another form of exploitation) or open the door for foreign capital to come in. Each purchase of Chinese petrochemicals or American surveillance technology principally serves multinationals and hinders domestic production. So the more they become "advanced", the more they become backward and oppressed, with the only benefits belonging to the comprador and imperialist.”

—Manitou, *Original Quote*

▼ (14-13)

“Superweapons do not prevent wars. This can be because of the emergence of a stronger weapon, or perhaps new technology that negates the advantages of said superweapon—airships, which were used extensively during WW1, have fallen out of favor, due to deadlier anti-aircraft guns, and better bombers. In the case of nuclear weapons, anti-ballistic technology has been at the forefront of military research of many nations, nuclear-armed or not. If (or when) the day comes that nuclear missiles are no longer practically a deterrent, then it will be back to the good old days of conventional versus guerrilla warfare.”

—Danny Wong, *Quora*

▼ (14-14)

“I believe there is a fundamental misunderstanding in most perspectives on these scenarios with how mutually assured destruction (MAD) works in the modern era. If anyone shoots a nuke, *everyone* shoots all of their nukes. That’s the only way to win the game. You don’t know who nuked you, so you wipe out the world. There is no global thermonuclear war; there is only MAD. So I’m not worried about World War because MAD is just another push for the consolidation of imperial power. These puppet wars of attrition are a different animal with a different purpose.”

—J.A. Sterling, *Maoism For The Masses Ecosocialism Channel*

⬟ (14-15) ℹ

“Cybersyn, the Chilean socialist-leaning cybernetic system, began development in 1971 by President Salvador Allende alongside British specialists. It was primarily implemented to aid in planning the socialist economy through newly innovative computer technology, directly combining feedback loops (‘input influences output’), communications, and control as the science of cybernetics suggests. It included these components:

“1. Telex machine: the factory computers connected to broad communication lines intended to transmit instant data to government planning boards and back, to solve contradictions and imbalances within economic production.
2. CyberStride: factory computers created to monitor and predict data statistics based on required raw materials, current production output, the current resource inventory, the absent laborers affecting production time, and detect abnormalities more efficiently within the frame of social production and plan future production requirements, if autonomous workers were futile to act on its objectives then the popular government would resolve it.
3. CHECO: Economic simulator generating hypothetical scenarios of economic plans that help the Chilean government plan in advance to decide the most effective course of action.
4. Control Room, which interconnects all processes of transmission of data, aiding the local managers in economic planning and emergency crisis solving.

“Cybersyn wasn’t perfect. It was never fully operational due to being in the infancy of development, constricted by the technology of the time [and it was implemented in a bourgeois state]. However, even then, it initiated a critical role in countering the imperialist-aligned truck owners’ strike in October 1972, as they helped coordinate the supply of essential utilities, thus averting a potential economic ravaging, despite the sabotage, vandalism, and road blocking. It was amalgamated into the framework of democratic centralism, despite the utopian tendencies of Allende’s democratic socialist government culminating in his overthrow by the bureaucratic-military apparatus led by Pinochet in 1973.”
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

15—Palestine and National Liberation

The graveyard of capitalist 'humanity'

● (15-1) ℹ

"October 7th was a response to settler-colonial aggression and attempts by settlers to take more Palestinian land; as we showed above, settler-colonialism is an arm of imperialism, and so the nation that seeks to defend its right to self-determination has every right to use force to stop the colonizers. International law allows indigenous people to defend their land by any means necessary, in United Nations resolutions 37/43. Second, it was the 'Israeli Defense Force' that killed hundreds of Israelis on October 7th."
—Paul Kingsley, *Palestine, Yemen, and The Middle East at Large*

● (15-2) ✪

"'One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter' is the correct stance that communists and anti-imperialists should take today. We, the proletariat, have had issues solving this urgent question in regard to critically examining the mainstream media. We shall register the true terrorists as the compradors and imperialist perpetrators of genocide, not the Palestinian civilian who throws a rock against the Israeli Defense Forces. The freedom fighters are militant organizations historically, like the Vietnamese National Liberation Front, the Yugoslav partisans, among others in WW2, and today's Hamas. In resistance to the worst elements of state and reactionary terror, the working class will force its enemies to submit to its will for everlasting freedom."
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

▼ (15-3)

"Hamas, in this historical period, is a friend and helper of all progressive humanity. The main goal is the destruction of world fascism and terrorism. And if you consider the people who help the world in the destruction of the true terrorists to be enemies, then you are on the side of the terrorists."
—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

▼ (15-4)

"When Netanyahu spoke, the whole of Congress erupted with rabid cheers and jingoism, clapping like seals—"USA! USA!", they chanted with an almost religious fanaticism. Things got so over the top that he even had to pause a couple of times, just to tell people to stop interrupting his speech with non-stop applause. I distinctly remember Western media telling us this sort of thing was bad when it happened in Stalin's USSR.

"And he blatantly denied he was committing genocide. Oh yes, Netanyahu had the gall to say Israel has killed "practically no" civilians throughout the latest conflict. A conflict that has officially already claimed the lives of at least 40,000 Palestinian civilians (most of whom being women and children); a conflict that is the most well-documented ever in history thanks to social media like TikTok (so we've all seen footage of atrocities being committed by Israeli soldiers and settlers); a conflict that people all over the world, and international organizations have been condemning for being genocidal.

"He told such an obvious lie, and Congress rewarded him with thunderous applause."

—Danny Wong, *Quora*

▼ (15-5) ℹ

"Israel's messaging is rarely consistent. In the morning, they say, 'Free Palestine from Hamas.' In the afternoon, they say all Palestinians are responsible for upholding Hamas. In the evening, they say Palestinians never really existed. And at night they pray for none to be left."

—Robby LaBurne, *Original Quote*

▼ (15-6)

"Both Zionism and Nazism exhibit the same tendencies such as apartheid, genocide, and mass displacement of different ethnic and religious groups. Both share a common creed of a "master" race with Generalplan Ost for the Aryans and Greater Israel for the Jews."

—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

▼ (15-7)

"If Israeli mass extermination was justified because "they were expelled first by the Babylonians, and later Romans" thousands of years ago, by that logic, the Bulgarians and Magyars have the right to reclaim Russian territory in the Caucasus and the Urals, already resettled with different nationalities, yet still their origins of birth."

—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

▼ (15-8)

"Why would I want to live among a bunch of right-wing messianic extremists who howl for the blood and land of the Arabs whose ancestors were expelled from their homes in 1948? Anyway, I like living in Chicago, and I'm American. This is my country. I have no connection with Israel apart from some of my ancestors having lived in Roman Palestine 2000 years ago. And, as indicated, I don't like what I see there."

—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

⬟ (15-9)

"Any people who have been driven into a corner for a long time will defend themselves. And the Palestinian people were driven out—2 million people live in an area of less than one district in St. Petersburg (we are talking about the Gaza Strip, the total population of Palestine is more than 5 million people). Naturally, people want to resist injustice—to arm themselves and fight. This resistance has never stopped in the last 70 years.

"Israel should have expected an attack—the humiliation of the Palestinian people, the occupation has been going on for 70 years. Israelis must remember that they drove the Palestinians out of their territories for 70 years.

"Nobody in the world needs this conflict. Many Jews are living in Arab countries; these are their friends. Religions are different, but these people are one people. Jews were sent here from Europe, and they began to drive out the Arabs. And then the Arabs are asked why they are fighting. It's clear to see why."

—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

▼ (15-10)
"Hamas has more women's representation on its central committee than some communist groups. It's genuinely just Islamophobia where these people think Muslim women are all living in slave conditions."
—Husseini, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● (15-11)
"A simple reminder for Zionist zealots continuing to overdose on the buzzword 'anti-Semitism': you ignorantly spit on the millions of Jewish graves of those who died in the Holocaust while inflicting the same kind of terror in their name."
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

⬟ (15-12)
"The Palestinian Dilemma did not originate in 1948 with the consequent Nakba but started earlier when the British mandate of Palestine faced an influx of European Ashkenazi Jews, who, with their conviction in the ideology of Zionism, started prohibiting Arabs from laboring with Jews despite them peacefully coexisting beforehand, and acquiring property from the Arabs. This segregation didn't halt, as when it plunged the Palestinians into further destitution, they took up arms and revolted in the Great Palestinian Revolt of the 1930s. The combined forces of British Imperialism and the Jewish Fascist Paramilitaries of Lehi, Haganah, and Irgun – who later formed the IDF – crushed the uprising, yet did not prevent the volcano from erupting in the future."
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

⬟ (15-13)
"The events of the last few weeks since Trump began speaking his bullshit of 'taking over' Gaza have only proven further what we who support resistance with an understanding of Zionism have been saying for a long time.

"Zionism is a threat not just to Palestine or Lebanon. Their future coming Israeli Lebensraum, their Manifest Destiny, spans from the Euphrates to the Nile. You, as an Arab or an Arab country, will always be a target or a future target for the Zionists and their American imperialist masters. The only

counter to this existential threat to the Arab nations is the Pan-Arab unity of all the Arab nations against the Zionist occupation of Palestine and US Imperialism overall, regardless of sect. That will be the only way to chase out the US Imperialists from the Arab world and free Palestine."
—African Stalin, *X*

▼ (15-14) ℹ
"The Israeli military routinely arrests and prosecutes between 500 and 700 Palestinian children between the ages of 12 and 17 each year, according to the Samidoun Arab Palestinian Prisoners' Solidarity Network. These children are subjected to forced interrogation, physical abuse, torture, ill-treatment, threats, and intimidation, and are forced to sign confessions written in Hebrew that they cannot read before being sent to trial in military courts, where basic due process guarantees are lacking."
—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

⬟ (15-15) ℹ
"Israel isn't only a terrorist state but also anti-semitic itself at times, for the Zionists were open to Nazi assistance in transferring Jews to Palestine with the intent to eventually establish an ethnostate. They argue that treaties such as the 1933 Haavara agreement and other transfers were to 'save' Jews from the Holocaust, yet this was in the wake of Jews calling for a boycott of the German Third Reich.

"By far the most insidious treachery is that of Labor-Zionist Leader and 'Savior' Rezso Kasztner, who consciously deported his own community of Hungarian Jews to the infamous Nazi death camps, to be granted safe passage to colonize Palestinian territory with other 'Settler Jews'. Other crimes include suppressing Auschwitz inmates' testimonies, as well as Western Zionist leaders barring the entry of refugees, even small Jewish children, to anywhere except Palestine, in fear that it would undermine the Zionist project. However, 12,000 Palestinians risked their lives to smite the Nazi war machine, along with their Jewish Partisan Comrades in Europe."
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

⬟ (15-16)

"In that article from thirty-four years ago, Hitchens examined the then-new discipline of terrorism studies. He found that not one of the Cold War and anti-Palestinian experts that he interviewed could explain what they meant by the term, terrorism. Some of these experts conceded that their discipline was founded on a meaningless concept."

—Jim Farmelant, *Quora*

▼ (15-17)

"We cannot fail to support people facing aggression by Imperialism, including the people of Syria who are left to die by the thuggish dogs of the HTS."

—African Stalin, *X*

▼ (15-18)

"Nobody hated the Taiwanese Independence movement more than Chiang Kai-shek himself, who famously said "誰搞台獨, 我搞他腦袋!" (I shall behead anyone who dares to make Taiwan independent!).

"The Communists and the Nationalists disagreed on political ideology and economic philosophy, but they saw eye-to-eye on the matter of Chinese territorial integrity. The Taiwanese Independence movement was fundamentally anti-China, a legacy of the colonial mentality among Taiwanese people due to nearly half a century of Japanese indoctrination."

—Danny Wong, *Quora*

⬟ (15-19)

"The white liberal position on Black people in America is that it was through liberalism, non-violence, and due process that we were granted the rights that we have today, painting the liberals as the benevolent givers of rights while we blacks sat idly by with puppy eyes, hoping someone in their pity would see our mistreatment, and work for justice on our behalf. To put it bluntly, this is bullshit."

—F.M.M., *Address To The Black Masses*

▼ (15-20)

"Pledge support to the national liberation campaigns of today, even if bourgeois. The objective is to weaken imperialism and urgently help the proletariat of the Global South, such as Palestine, resist extinction through ethnic cleansing. Hamas isn't a 'terrorist clique' who murders civilians for fun, so to carry out our tasks we must unite now, and then factionalize later."

—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

▼ (15-21)

"History always dictates that a national liberation movement embedded with the people will always win. From Algeria to Zimbabwe and Vietnam, this principle of history has always been proven, and soon Palestine will win too!"

—African Stalin, *X*

16—Discipline

● (16-1) ✪

"There is a difference between hustling for individual status and toiling for communal benefit. One will turn over profit for the bourgeoisie, and the other will produce tangible gains for the proletariat. One will leave you empty and soulless, and the other will keep you rooted as a worker, citizen, and human."

—Robby LaBurne, *Original Quote*

● (16-2)

"Remember that education is resistance! Ignorance is capitulation! Learning philosophy, political economy, and history is grueling, yet unlike bourgeois education today, it's to cultivate us to smash the status quo and create our own future."

—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

● (16-3)

"After the Great Leap Forward, the CCP learned from the success of agriculture in the Tachai village. People worked hard every day, sometimes up to 18 hours, to sustain themselves and expand the scope of the village's productive forces. All of this was done under the strong leadership of the communist ideology and socialist political line. Quite the opposite of laziness, don't you think?"

—Robby LaBurne, *Socialism: The Opposite Of Laziness*

● (16-4)

"There is a difference between accepting reality and being complacent with it."

—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

▼ (16-5)

"Why then was it Stalin who succeeded (de facto) Lenin, not someone else? That's another story. Long story short, the man proved himself to be the real leader. He gained mass support. They voted for him. They chose him. They wanted him to succeed Lenin.

“Stalin was a workaholic. Stalin was damn smart. He had things done: properly, precisely, on time. Stalin was a great leader. Not Rykov the alcoholic, not Bukharin the chatterbox, not Trotsky the good-for-nothing, not someone else (Dzerzhinsky could have been another good candidate, though). Nope. It was Stalin. Simple. If you think of it.”
—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

● (16-6)
“When a PLA force of over 100,000 liberated Shanghai back in 1949, they chose to sleep rough on the street instead of bothering the locals. No looting, no murder, no rapes, no “civil asset forfeiture”. This is an army built on the ideals of communism, and that means putting the people first.”
—Danny Wong, *Quora*

● (16-7)
“Communists should not consume pornography and drugs because they’re proven to lower your mental capacity and effectiveness. Additionally, it is because they take an exploitative position in modern society.”
—Robby LaBurne, *X*

⬟ (16-8)
“Is self-improvement bad? The answer is no, the premise that we communists are condemning exercise is false and ludicrous. In truth, we heavily encourage strengthening the body, for it’s scientifically healthy. Yet we demarcate the line when reactionary influencers lead us astray, agitating us to ‘rebel’ against a society they paint of wage ‘cucks’ and ‘losers,’ and to realize our true ‘worth’ by defection to the bourgeoisie – at the expense of the exploited – for the sake of our self ’improvement.’”
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

⬟ (16-9)
“Obviously, those who are unable to work should still get their necessities. But such people are truly rare; even physically disabled people can do mental labor, and mentally disabled people may contribute to physical labor. Therefore, people who can work but refuse to—leeching on society in the way Republicans think ‘welfare queens’ do—such as capitalists and

landlords, will be deprived of their unearned income, and they will either work for themselves and society or starve."
—Paul Kingsley, *Quora*

● (16-10)
"Aspire to be like the great revolutionaries who have driven the movement. They should admire people like Lenin, who spent years writing in exile, or Mao, who marched 6,000 miles around China to escape his reactionary pursuers."
—Robby LaBurne, *Quora*

▼ (16-11)
"Fred Hampton had to be forcibly removed from his party station because he spent 24/7 at it. Politics is important, yes, but you don't need to be exposing yourself to it 24/7. Because at a certain point, it becomes unhealthy and crippling. Watch some good movies, read some entertaining books, and stuff like that. That's what escapism is all about."
—F.M.M., *Serious Discussions Channel*

⬟ (16-12)
"I work hard. I don't smoke, drink, or do drugs. I don't have expensive or time-consuming hobbies. So, how come I don't have any money or time?

"I asked myself, might it have something to do with the fact that my job pays little over 1,000 USD a month, in a city where living expenses and rent are the craziest in the world? Might it have something to do with the fact that university students have been earning less than their counterparts from decades ago, even before COVID struck? Might it have something to do with the fact that I work over 12 hours a day? Might it have something to do with the fact that every time the US prints a bunch of money, I have to work even longer hours just to maintain my current standard of living?

"It's not much, but at least I now know the real source of my misery. And knowing is half the battle."
—Danny Wong, *Quora*

17—Youth

● (17-1)
“Parents are the cradle for the youth, not the cage for their vigor of desires. It's crucial to unite our generations against the class enemy instead of engaging in ‘generational superiority.’”
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

● (17-2)
“A successful society or party requires not only knowledge but passion as well. The next generation should be guided not to contain their youthful energy but apply it to change the world.”
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

● (17-3)
“You will only ever have true friends if you are poor.”
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *Quora*

● (17-4)
“The youth and student masses are the greatest locomotive of history known as the bearers of progressive flames in their epoch of gloomy deprivation.”
—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (17-5)
“The Confucian mantra of ‘respect your elders’ is weaponized to silence opposing dissent from the youth by those who act as dictators rather than teachers.”
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

▼ (17-6)
“TikTok is very simple and accessible. After them, it is difficult for people to perceive complex information and watch long video clips. Thus, people are automatically cut off from smart information. The Chinese have a saying: Those who cannot read long texts will work with their hands. The future belongs to young people who know how to read and analyze long texts.”
—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

⬟ (17-7)
“In general, children's and teenage life in the courtyards was boiling and seething—communication, games in the yard, first love. Here, teenagers tested their communication skills in society, learned to make friends, and, if necessary, defend their beliefs or principles in a fight. Here they received their first moral lessons.

“If we take the school years, then the teenagers had cohesion and mutual assistance; they helped the younger ones and those lagging. There was a feeling of self-sacrifice, heroism, and readiness for heroism, if necessary, to die for one’s country.

“The children of the USSR also had a summer pioneer camp. Hiking with a tent, songs around the fire, and intimate conversations. ‘Range with fires’ is a song from a pioneer summer camp. But most importantly, the teenagers of the USSR had confidence in the future. They knew that they could easily enter almost any university.”
—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

● (17-8)
“The youth can never obstruct civilization and undo the progress of its elders. They, however, can reverse any obsolete social institutions that act like a flat tire for the social forces of society.”
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

● (17-9)
“Strict parents create sneaky youth; their environment evolves them to be spontaneous rebels. Yet once the youth’s rebellious energy is developed into an organized revolutionary rebellion, shedding its fur of brash tendencies towards humanity, it can emit the fiery blaze of history that’ll once again cast aside the old order.”
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

▼ (17-10)
“Youth are generally expected to attend school, play sports, socialize, and depend on their guardians. But if you are fourteen and hell-bent on reading

Das Kapital, bench-pressing three plates, or learning linear algebra, who are the rest of us to stop you?"
—Robby LaBurne, *Original Quote*

● (17-11)
"Not having friends in real life is unhealthy. That's just a fact. You might not think it now, but it's very well documented as an unhealthy behavior that can also massively stunt socialization in your adult life."
—Husseini, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬟ (17-12)
"I believe the youth should be able to have political representation at 16. If the ageist reactionary rebuff is 'intelligence', then the illiterate strata of the proletariat, or just the common worker, in general, shouldn't vote since they're politically 'ignorant' of topics such as political economy. This must be replicated in homes and schools, for if we are truly the liberators of the people, we should listen to the youth, for we gather the ripe fruits of mature ideas in our collective harvest whilst abandoning any immature fruits for no compliance without representation!"
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

⬟ (17-13)
"While the youth are in such ages of puberty, they develop a sense of dissatisfaction with the 'loving dictatorship' of parents, dissatisfied with the school system, and dissatisfied with society. But because of bourgeois influence in the youth's ideas that their rebellion is only spontaneous and usually not going anywhere, the bourgeois can slander the youth with such offensive terms as 'teenage rebellion' and 'rebellion age', calling us 'mentally unstable.' They want to make us look like a bunch of infantile disorders who need 'a lesson' from adults because we dare to rebel against parents, teachers, and the old society. This proves the importance of developing class awareness in the youth."
—Manitou, *Original Quote*

18—Culture, Women, and Queer Comrades

⬟ (18-1) ✪

“The culture of neoliberalism encourages people to be this superficial and impulsive, and justifies their lack of emotional intelligence by dressing it up as ‘empowerment'. I assure you, there is nothing ‘empowering’ about immaturity. Human beings are complex, and relationships are even more so. For you to judge another person and be strongly dismissive towards them based on trivial, surface-level traits, shows that you are incapable of navigating the real world or regulating your own emotions (worst case scenario, you’re unable to discern between fact and feeling, or fiction and reality), and as such should not be viewed as a functional member of society.”

—Danny Wong, *Quora*

⬟ (18-2)

“There is nothing inherently wrong with being single. Oftentimes, when people tell you there is something wrong with you (especially when you don’t feel it yourself), chances are they are trying to sell you something. If you didn’t know already, being in a relationship is expensive. A study by Lloyds Bank in the UK shows that single people spend £3,600 less per year than those in a relationship. And that's the point—singles spend less, which is bad news for capitalism. So they compel you to enter a relationship, not because you want to, but because of the combined powers of marketing and peer pressure.”

—Danny Wong, *Quora*

⬤ (18-3)

“Only the Soviet Union (and the Chinese communists in their war against Japanese imperialism) allowed women to be soldiers of the Red Army, and those courageous comrades killed more than enough of the Nazi bastards.”

—Paul Kingsley, *Women Hold Up Half The Sky*

▼ (18-4)

"Most women communists want to ban pornography and prostitution. I've talked to real strippers and prostitutes in the past. They don't find pleasure in these activities. The only real reason they do it is to get money for college and other things. These only exist for the pleasure of men, to the detriment of women."

—F.M.M., *Serious Discussions Channel*

▼ (18-5)

"Now, how did socialist China concretely give its people the right to free speech? For one, the peasantry was given the right to report the abuses they faced from feudal landlords, and peasant women in particular reported the abuse they faced from their husbands. The result was that, unlike in capitalist states where working people's voices are ignored, the masses and their new state used appropriate force against these enemies."

—Paul Kingsley, *Free Speech For The Working Class*

⬟ (18-6)

"There has been a lot of discussion in political spaces about liberal efforts at inclusion or social justice, often criticized under the umbrella term of 'woke.' Communists can agree with a number of these criticisms while still supporting the most vulnerable members of any society.

"The first issue is that the postmodernist ideology from which many of these theories stem runs counter to historical materialism. Believing that ethnic, gender, or racial struggles exist in and of themselves, independent from class contradictions or each other, draws from a metaphysical outlook and is simply not true. When looking at actual history, it is clear that family structures and constructs of race rise and fall in tandem with systems of production.

"The second is that liberal 'inclusion' often has the counter-effect of fostering exclusion and alienation of various workers, including some of its supposed beneficiaries. To push someone aside for not having been taught vocabulary like "heteronormativity" or "equanimity" is elitist, and can easily veer into disdain for the supposedly 'unrefined' masses.

“The third is that a small number of attempts at ‘justice’ have truly left the bounds of reason. It must be noted that advocating the humane treatment of any person or group is far from ‘ridiculous,’ as some bad actors play it out to be. Yet calling to do away with sports, to abolish the nuclear family in the present moment, or to encourage illegal drug use is out of touch with the global masses and materially harmful.

“It has been the case recently that some use these legitimate criticisms of liberal ‘social justice’ to opportunistically alienate marginalized people. It must be noted that ‘woke’ is no Satan, no ‘harbinger of degeneracy,’ but merely a display of the inability of liberalism to meaningfully address societal injustices beyond words.”
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

● (18-7)
“Bourgeois ‘radical feminists’ call for women to fight men, but Marxists know that the contradiction between genders is non-antagonistic and fundamental to class society, so it will go away under socialism and cease to exist in communism (when class society does not exist).”
—Paul Kingsley, *Women Hold Up Half The Sky*

● (18-8)
“Bourgeois ’morality’ is the furnace in which the oppressed of the world suffer within.”
—F.M.M., Original Quote

● (18-9)
“Nationalism of the oppressed isn't the same as the nationalism of the oppressors, which is reactionary. Chairman Mao said so.”
—African Stalin, *X*

▼ (18-10)
“If you’ve organized and/or done direct action in real life, you begin to realize that you’re consistently surrounded by a higher percentage of people with marginalized identities, and there’s a material reason for this. A comrade is a comrade, love is love.”
—J.A. Sterling, ‘*Ask A Maoist’ Hotline*

⬟ (18-11)

"A conciliatory stance to religion is best, educating people in communism and only targeting reactionary clergy on a political basis. As an atheist communist, I believe that a party should be explicitly secular, but this does not preclude forging alliances with progressive religious leaders or protecting the right to private worship. Most people in the world are religious, which is why mindlessly attacking religion gets you nowhere."

—M., '*Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

⬤ (18-12)

"The hatred of immigrants originates from no rational reasoning. It originates from the bourgeoisie attempting to divide the proletariat between the "bloodsucking" migrants and the domestic proletariat. Instead, people immigrate for a better future for their families, slaving away in intensified exploitation for lower wages in undesirable labor jobs than the rest of the domestic proletariat with scarcity of state benefits."

—Mena Redd, Original Quote

▼ (18-13)

"Bella Ciao is also part of their culture now. We sang it in Russian, in the Soviet summer scout camps, sitting around a campfire at night. In context, in Russia and formerly the USSR, the song was associated with anti-fascist struggle, the left movement, fight against colonialism, imperialism, oppression (against Pinochet, for free Cuba, for Ho Chi Minh's Vietnam, Kurdish resistance, etc), and for just causes in general. It is still popular in Russia and some former Soviet countries."

—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

⬟ (18-14)

"In Peterson's view, non-identity politics include the politics of bourgeois white Christian Men, because that's not identity politics, that's just politics. Somehow or another, it is the fault of the Marxists that black people, women, gay people, trans people, and so forth are standing up to speak for themselves and their rights in a society that has abused and mistreated them.

"Now, of course, it is true that Marxists, not all of us, but many, probably most of us, have supported these various movements. But of course, as

Marxists, the primary movement that we support is the movement of the working class. We can't take credit for these groups when they organize themselves; all we can do is support them. In Marx-speak, this is called solidarity. It is a conception foreign to anything that Peterson has ever thought, except for his fellow feeling for powerful white men."
—Justin Schwartz, *Quora*

⬟ (18-15)
"A wave of immigrants from England arrived in America. They climbed to the top of the hierarchy, at the bottom of which were native and black people. They were followed by a wave of Germans who began to fight with the British to occupy the top rung of the hierarchy. The Irish were next. Again, the struggle for relative dominance over everyone else.

"Nothing like this happened anywhere else in the world. The result was the establishment of cruelty as a way of life. Yesterday's servant wants to be today's master. People learned to take out their anger, rage, and fear on those who were less powerful than them. It means the same as always—to oppress, not to help to rise."
—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

▼ (18-16)
"Bourgeois ideology can only offer semi-'liberation' of the marginalized peoples as 'concessions' to continue enclosing the masses with racial, sexual, and cultural struggle rather than class-centric struggle; it serves as a diversion to make you believe the enemy is 'people of color,' 'feminists,' or 'LGBTQ+' people. But rebuke the revisionist expression of them serving as state assets to 'maintain' class power. Proletarian ideology offers no barriers or conditions for the fulfilled liberation of all marginalized masses."
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

▼ (18-17)
"Stop victimizing yourself and start believing you are more than a slave, as the bourgeoisie wants you to do. They want you to submit yourself to them to make it feel like there is no hope. If you finally have what you wanted a few months ago, be a little happy with yourself."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

● **(18-18)**

“Self-forgiveness changes the world for the better. You can't be a good person as long as you think you're bad.”

—Svetlana Cherkasova, *Quora*

● **(18-19)** ✪

“Socialism appeals to the bright side of human nature and promotes good rather than evil—based on the principle of ‘man to man is a friend, comrade and brother’ rather than ‘man is wolf to man.’”

—Rachid Masimov, *Quora*

19—Conclusion

Ten pivotal quotes to take to the streets

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1. “The reality for the downtrodden masses of the world is not one of abject poverty, but of potential prosperity siphoned by international networks of exploitation.

“Colonialism and slavery of the past have been rebranded as globalization and debt bondage, plundering $152 trillion from Africa, Asia, and Latin America since 1960. As a result of capitalist-caused climate change, the UN and World Bank forecast that by the end of this decade, 3 billion will have insecure housing, and 950 million will lack steady access to food. At the same time, millionaires' share of global wealth will climb from 43 to 66 percent, or $305 trillion.

“This is no accident of nature, nor is it a failure of the system to operate correctly. With every structural adjustment program, one-sided trade deal, and attempt at a neoliberal color revolution, the leading financial powers do not combat this plunder but intensify it. It was not Lenin but indeed Cecil Rhodes who stated that imperialism is a *necessity* in preserving the capitalist system. Mass exploitation is not a deterrent to mass wealth; it has been a precondition to it since 1492.

“What fuels the booming markets of Wall Street and Dubai comes at the expense of sweatshop labor, pollution, and warmongering from Palestine to Guatemala to Sudan. This diametrical opposition between imperialist hegemony and the toiling masses is the foundation for the only movement that can abolish the present state of things: communism.”
—Maoism For The Masses Editorial Board, Original Quote

2. “There was a great proverb that no empire lasts forever. Those who cause those ‘eternal’ empires’ decline and inevitable death aren't some ‘great men of history.’ They come from the masses of their colonies who have been enslaved to the desires of their ruling classes for decades or centuries. That also includes the internal crisis among the wielders of state power – the ruling class – due to naturally contradicting interests or paranoia towards

each other. In totality, the true graveyard of empires is the masses alone. It is them who are history's loudest trumpet, outshining all ideals and even the leaders who inspire them the most."
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

3. "The relation between bourgeoisie and proletariat cannot be viewed correctly without dialectics. With dialectics, we can determine that it's an antagonistic contradiction, a primary contradiction, how it is the basis of the economic system, and how, to transform society, we must resolve this contradiction.

"We can see the two classes are in a unity of opposites with one another; they're connected. As the wealth of the bourgeoisie grows, so does the number of the proletariat, which leads to the contradiction intensifying further and further. As the bourgeoisie accumulates more capital, it forms monopolies and becomes imperialist. In both cases, we see the transformation of quantity into quality.

"As an antagonistic contradiction, it can only be solved if one opposite defeats and subsumes the other, negating it completely. In this case, it is the proletariat that is going to negate the bourgeoisie, abolishing itself in the process. The proletariat is defined by its position as a toiling, exploited class. Once it abolishes the class that exploits it, and once it abolishes classes altogether, it's no longer going to be what it used to be; it's going to transform. The bourgeoisie and proletariat are defined by their relationship to one another. Indeed, understanding dialectics is crucial if we want to know how to change society."
—M., *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

4. "'One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter' is the correct stance that communists and anti-imperialists should take today. We, the proletariat, have had issues solving this urgent question in regard to critically examining the mainstream media. We shall register the true terrorists as the compradors and imperialist perpetrators of genocide, not the Palestinian civilian who throws a rock against the Israeli Defense Forces. The freedom fighters are militant organizations historically, like the Vietnamese National Liberation Front, the Yugoslav partisans, among others in WW2, and today's

Hamas. In resistance to the worst elements of state and reactionary terror, the working class will force its enemies to submit to its will for everlasting freedom."
—Mena Redd, *Original Quote*

5. "Mao laughed and said, 'But it is not a crime to offend me! Xiao Wu, do you know why the people love us and support us?'

"'Because we fight to make the people's lives better,' said the young man.

"Mao nodded and replied, 'That is correct. The people love us because we are a revolutionary force; we are here to liberate them, to serve them. Therefore, if we make any mistakes at all, then anyone is free to scrutinize us, however they may choose to do so, and it is our duty to listen to them.'"
—Danny Wong, *Quora*

6. "As explained before, China's economy exploded in the 1950s; it experienced downturns in the early-1960s in the Great Leap Forward and the late-1960s in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, but its growth in the mid-1960s and the 1970s (during the Cultural Revolution, that is) was so great that it negated the downturns.

"China greatly raised its literacy rate, life expectancy, and quality of life. It was able to begin rapid industrial development, a massive literacy and education campaign, family planning initiatives, cultural advancement, women's liberation, and more. It was the most advanced society with the greatest levels of democracy and freedom as long as Mao was alive. The people were in control of their workplaces and their own lives."
—Paul Kingsley, *Socialist China's Successes*

7. "We all have new things to learn. Nobody has ever 'mastered' anything. There is still more, and the more you learn, the better you become. You do have to change your beliefs to adapt to the present. 'Classical Marxism', as an example, has limited real-world application today. That's why the only active revolutionary movements in the world are Maoist. They know how to incorporate Marxism into the present. Nobody here is going to be the perfect Marxist, but that doesn't mean we give up."
—Sahij Singh Aulakh, *'Ask A Maoist' Hotline*

8. “Each year, $30 billion of African gold, including $16 billion from Sudan, is exported into the United Arab Emirates. The latter number amounts to a whole *seventh* of the war-ridden nation’s gross domestic product, and nearly ten times its healthcare budget.

“Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo or ‘Hemedti’, the head of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, owns 11 of these illegal refineries, contributing to his net worth of $7 billion. His army is directly involved in this business of gold smuggling, through securing mines and transportation. While they are portrayed as a ragtag militia, follow the money, and you’ll see they’re the textbook definition of an imperialist comprador. On top of the crimes against his own people, Dagalo previously provided mercenaries to suppress the Houthi resistance in Yemen, and recently endorsed Netanyahu’s plan to ethnically cleanse Gaza.

“International watchdogs have consistently discovered evidence of Emirati weapons utilized by the RSF, confirming the existence of a two-way relationship. RSF massacres plague Sudan’s villages while Dubai’s souks are flooded with gold, and Dagalo is given a ten-digit remuneration while his people are on the brink of famine; you couldn’t have one without the other. Whether or not the Emirati government is actively complicit in this process does not change the fact that Sudan’s civil war is fueled not by ‘barbarism’ but by bureaucratic capitalism.”
—Robby LaBurne, Original Quote

9. “We don’t master and plot and scheme. We go to the masses, see their ideas, understand their frustrations, and organize accordingly. If one neighborhood has a gang issue, then we organize a people’s militia for self-defense against said gang. If an apartment complex has issues with a certain landlord, we organize and start rent strikes. If we have the people, even when we do get broken up, we have won over their trust. People are going to feel safer knowing that communists are willing to throw down and be there when things get bad.”
—F.M.M., *‘Ask A Maoist’ Hotline*

10. “One day we will win. Today may be stolen from us by reactionaries of all types and makes, capitalists with insurmountable wealth, fascists with seemingly unending support, and counter-revolutionaries whose surging

hordes may be armed either with weapons or a false consciousness masked as ‘intellect.’ That may seem distant and stretch far into the future.

“One thing is sure, however: so long as there exists oppression, the oppressor will continue to aggravate and irritate its subjects. Then, inevitably, the subject will rise. It is not a matter of if, but a matter of when the oppressed will win against their oppressor. If he is put down, then he will rise again. But for as long as the communists hope and breathe, the order of life must come out the victor after the final struggle is won.”
—Comrade Justine, Original Quote

Investigate, Initiate, Intensify.

Workers Of The World Unite!

List For Further Reading	Authors
Marxism-Leninism-Maoism Basic Course	CPI (Maoist)
Principles of Communism	Engels
Communist Manifesto	Marx, Engels
Quotations of Chairman Mao Zedong	Mao
Fundamentals of Political Economy	China Book Project
Fundamentals of the Chinese Communist Party	China Book Project
Killing Hope	William Blum
Wage Labour and Capital	Marx
Value, Price, and Profit	Marx
Capital (Das Kapital)	Marx
Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism	Lenin
Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR	Stalin
Neocolonialism, the Highest Stage of Imperialism	Nkrumah
Lenin's Imperialism in the 21st Century	The Institute of Political Economy
Dialectical and Historical Materialism	Stalin
On Contradiction	Mao
On Practice	Mao
Dialectics of Nature	Engels

Materialism and Empirio-Criticism	Lenin
Anti-Dühring	Engels
Origins of the Family	Engels
State and Revolution	Lenin
Reform or Revolution	Luxemburg
What is to be Done?	Lenin
Left-Wing Communism, an Infantile Disorder	Lenin
On New Democracy	Mao
On Protracted War	Mao
On The Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People	Mao
Capitalist Realism	Mark Fisher
Revolutionary Suicide	Huey Newton
Activist Study	CPP
Urban Perspective	CPI (Maoist)
From Victory to Defeat: China's Socialist Road and Capitalist Reversal	Pao-yu Ching
History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks): Short Course	Stalin et al.
Socialism Betrayed: Behind the Collapse of the Soviet Union	Roger Keeran & Thomas Kenny

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Svetlana Cherkasova
https://www.quora.com/profile/Svetlana-Cherkasova-4
Jim Farmelant:
https://www.quora.com/profile/Jim-Farmelant
Rachid Masimov:
https://www.quora.com/profile/Rachid-Masimov
Danny Wong:
https://www.quora.com/profile/Lonely-Cantonese-Sith-Lord

X Profiles:

Robby LaBurne:
https://x.com/MaoistMasses
African Stalin:
https://x.com/Joseph_Stalin24

Maoism For The Masses Discord Server *(containing “Ask A Maoist,” “Ecosocialism Channel,” and “Serious Discussions Channel”)*
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Maoism For The Masses is an online organization of class-conscious workers, students, and intelligentsia determined to raise the red flag in all corners of the world. Formed in March 2022, we operate on Quora, Discord, Twitter, YouTube, and, most importantly, our very own website at maoismforthemasses.wordpress.com.

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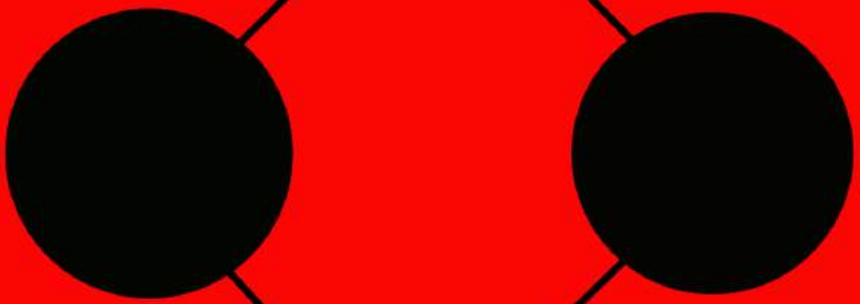

19
CO-AUTHORS

370
QUOTES

9 798218 733544